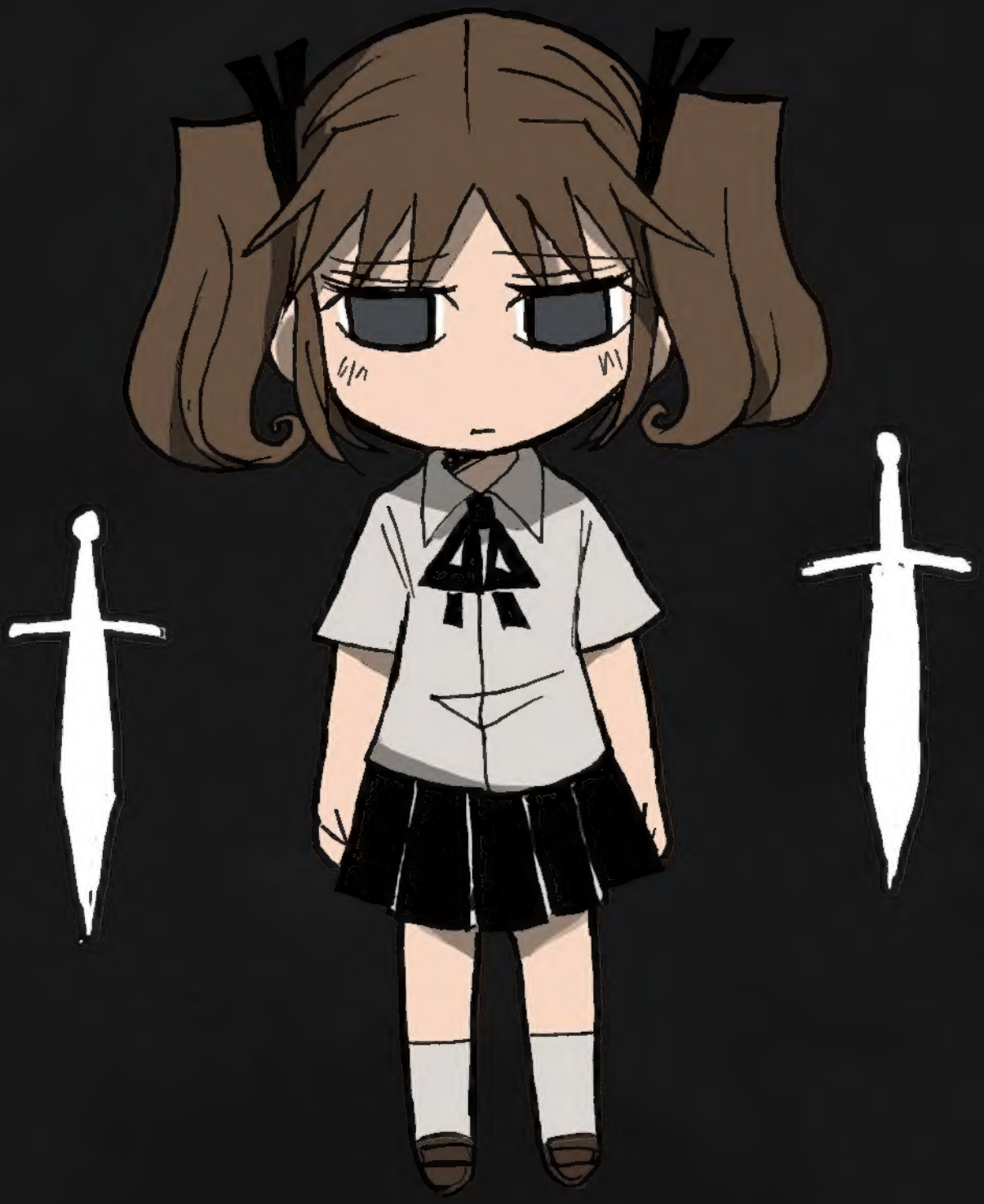


GAME CLUB ⑨

PRE-APOCALYPSE

Beshiko

Playtester. Has been killing people online ever since she was six. A gaming warrior. The president's number two subordinate.

President

Works hard developing games in her club. Her Madmoon hairpin is her favorite item.

Morishita-chan

Ferocious. Hates lies. Joined the game club due to Beshiko inviting her.

Suwa-kun

A boy infatuated with his rubber duck. Joined the game club in hopes of making digital organisms.

Oyone

The president's trusted subordinate. Has been subservient to the president ever since middle school.

Vice President

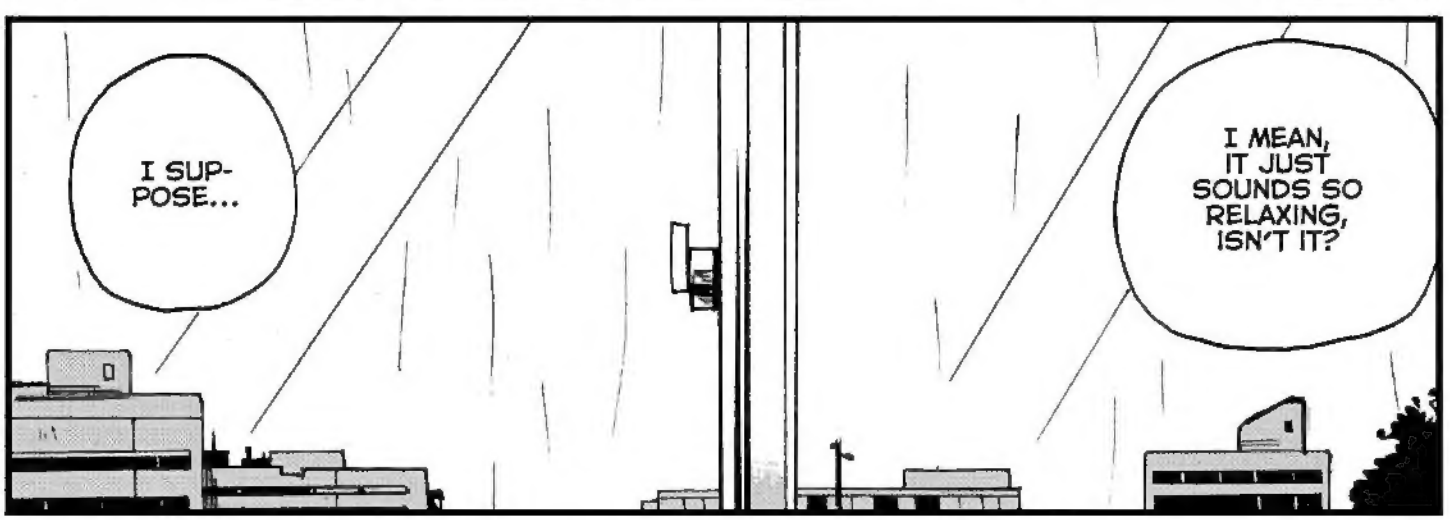
Shy. Was dragged into the game club to straighten it up. Always sits somewhere in the back.

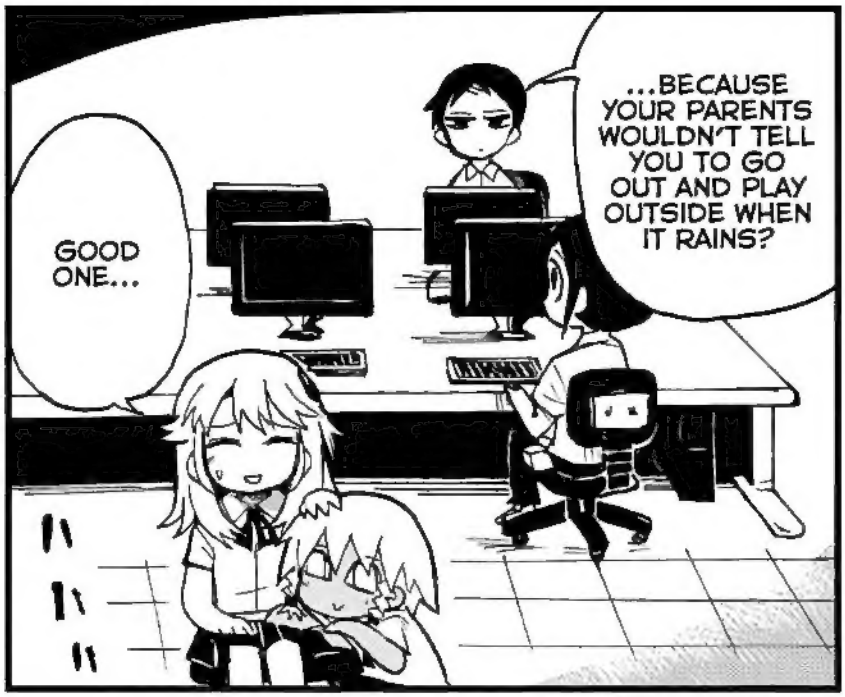
カァ
カァ
カァ

GAME CLUB ⑨
PRE-APOCALYPSE

IT'S RAINING...

REALLY?
PREZ LOVES RAIN.


I SUP-POSE...
I MEAN, IT JUST SOUNDS SO RELAXING, ISN'T IT?


GOOD ONE...
...BECAUSE YOUR PARENTS WOULDN'T TELL YOU TO GO OUT AND PLAY OUTSIDE WHEN IT RAINS?

IT'S SO NICE... I WONDER WHY?

ガ

AH, MORISHITA-CHAN!

SPLIT PERSONALITY?
CAUTION!!
LIKES THE SOUND OF RAIN
WHY?
USED TO BE SCARY

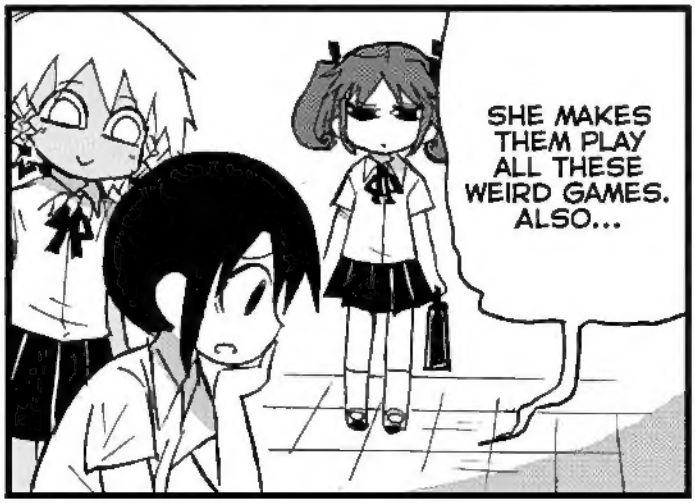
...

WE'RE WRITING DOWN PREZ' MYSTERIES!

THIS CLUB IS HER TESTING GROUND FOR MAKING KILLING MACHINES!

WE'RE GETTING CLOSER TO THE TRUTH...

BESHI-KO-CHAN IS A WILD CHILD...
OYONE IS HER TRUSTED AND LOYAL SUBOR-DINATE.
VICE PREZ IS WEAK TO PRESSURE AND ALWAYS FOLLOWS HER ORDERS.


SHE MAKES THEM PLAY ALL THESE WEIRD GAMES. ALSO...

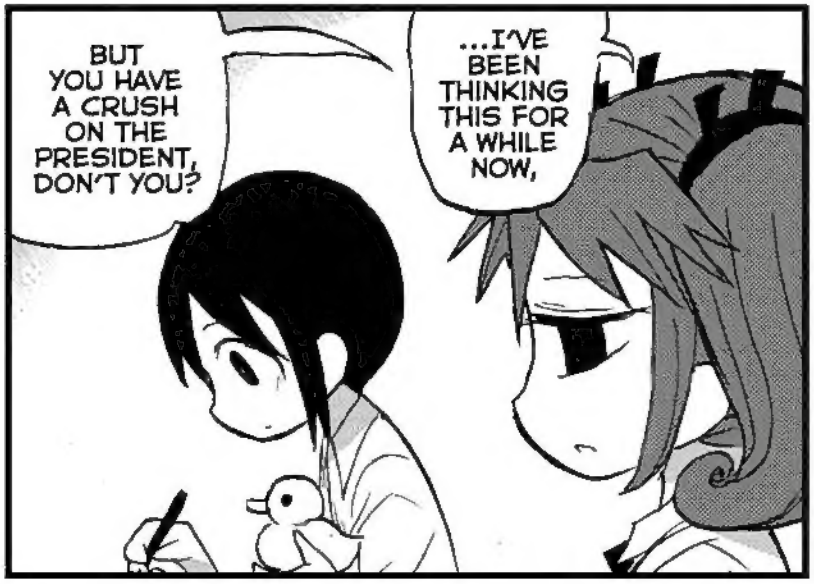
SHE'S A BLOOD-THIRSTY WILD CHILD!
AND NOT JUST ANY WILD CHILD,

...
AND ME...
I WON-DER...

AND MIGHT GO POSTAL ANYTIME SOON...
MORISHITA-CHAN IS DISSATISFIED WITH SOCIETY

SO I COULD THEN CLAIM THEM AS MINE...

ATTRACTED TO OBJECTS AND DIGITAL ORGANISMS...
I'M SURE IT'S THAT I'M NOT INTERESTED IN ANYTHING ALIVE,
SO... I BET SHE WANTS TO PUSH ME INTO KILLING PEOPLE TO TURN THEM INTO OBJECTS...


BUT YOU HAVE A CRUSH ON THE PRESIDENT, DON'T YOU?
...I'VE BEEN THINKING THIS FOR A WHILE NOW,

DO YOU HONESTLY THINK THAT I COULD BE IN LOVE WITH SOMETHING THAT'S NOT AN OBJECT?
FUFU... GOOD-NESS ME.

I MEAN, YOU'RE SO PASSIONATE ABOUT TRYING TO KNOW HER.

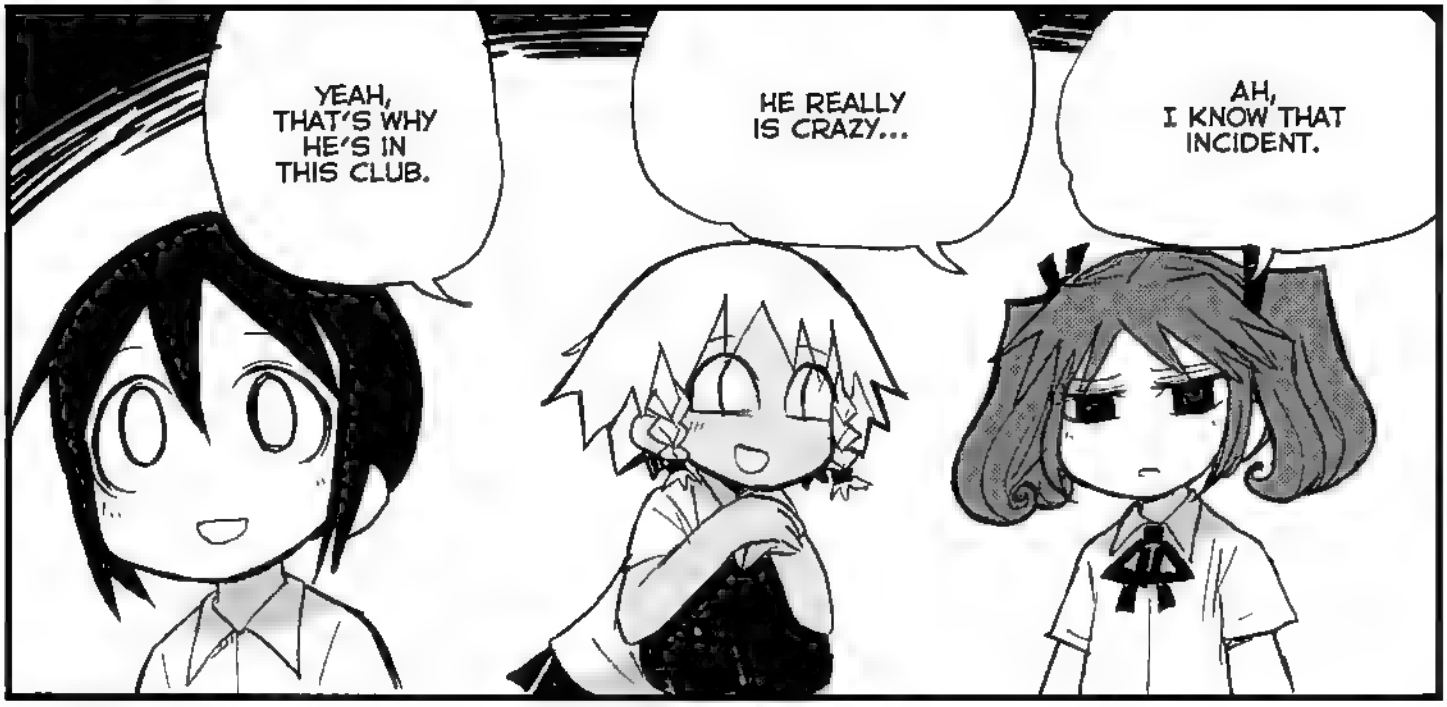
THE HELL IS UP WITH THIS GUY...?

HE'S CRAZY!

DON'T YOU KNOW, MORISHITA-CHAN?
YOU'RE THE MOST UNPLEASANT PERSON I'VE EVER SEEN...

WAIT, NO, HIS PET'S MEMENTO.
IT'S HIS SISTER'S...
THAT'S JUNKO-CHAN.
I CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT HIM... AND WHAT'S WITH THE DUCK?
HIS PET'S...?
THEN... HE SWORE TO HIMSELF.
IT SHOCKED HIM SO HARD, HE COULDN'T EVEN SWALLOW FOOD.
HE USED TO HAVE A PET BIRD, AND IT DIED.
HE SWORE TO SPEND HIS LIFE LOVING NOT LIVING THINGS, BUT OBJECTS.

LIES TO THE TEACHERS THAT IT'S A MEMENTO OF HIS SISTER, NEVER LETTING IT GO...
HE TAKES BATHS WITH IT, TAKES IT TO SCHOOL,
THE REST IS HISTORY.


YEAH, THAT'S WHY HE'S IN THIS CLUB.
HE REALLY IS CRAZY...
AH, I KNOW THAT INCIDENT.

...WHY?
BECAUSE YOU'RE CRAZY TOO!

WHY DO YOU THINK WE RECRUITED YOU, MORISHITA-CHAN?
...THIS CLUB? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

EVERYONE ELSE IS...
I'M NOT CRA-ZY,

...I'M NOT.

WHAT'S THE POINT OF GATHERING UP A BUNCH OF CRAZY PEOPLE?
WHAT IS THE PRESIDENT THINKING ANYWAY?

I'M NORMAL, THOUGH?

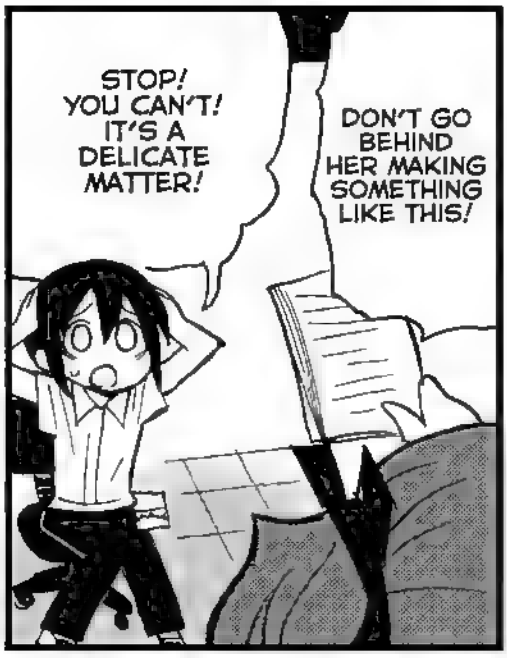
THEN YOU'RE CRAZY TOO, BESHIKO-CHAN.
ALSO, IF YOU SAY EVERYONE IN THE GAME CLUB IS INSANE,

...OH, WHAT-EVER...

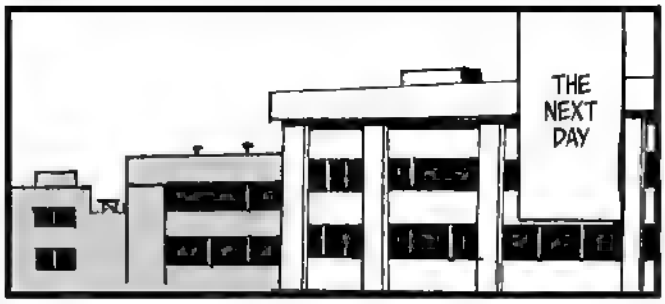
BUT YOU JUST...
YOU...!

YOU'RE PISSING ME OFF!

THIS IS ALL PART OF HER PLAN...
SEE?


STOP! YOU CAN'T! IT'S A DELICATE MATTER!
DON'T GO BEHIND HER MAKING SOMETHING LIKE THIS!

IF YOU REALLY THINK SO, THEN JUST ASK HER DIRECTLY.


THE NEXT DAY

HELLO, EVERY-ONE.
DOING WELL?

PRESIDENT... WE NEED TO HAVE A SERIOUS TALK.

WE'D LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR SECRET.
CAN'T THIS BE CASUAL INSTEAD ...?

HUH ...? WHAT?

THIS IS HOW I AM FOR PRETTY MUCH THE WHOLE DAY.
HEY... KNOCK IT OFF ALREADY, WOULD YOU?

YOUR TRUE SELF...

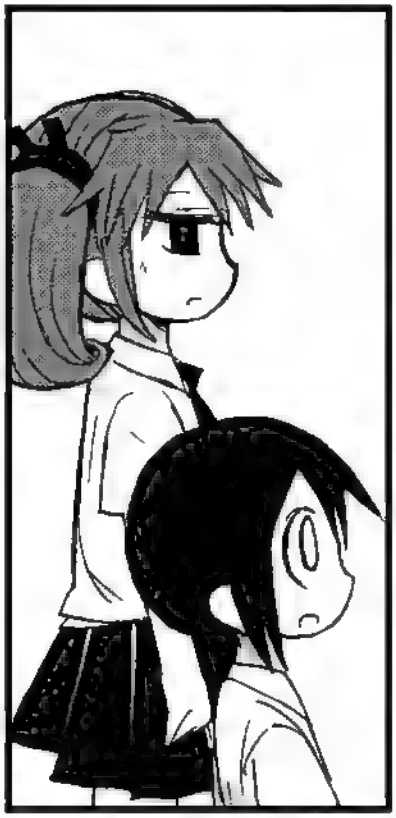
HUH...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

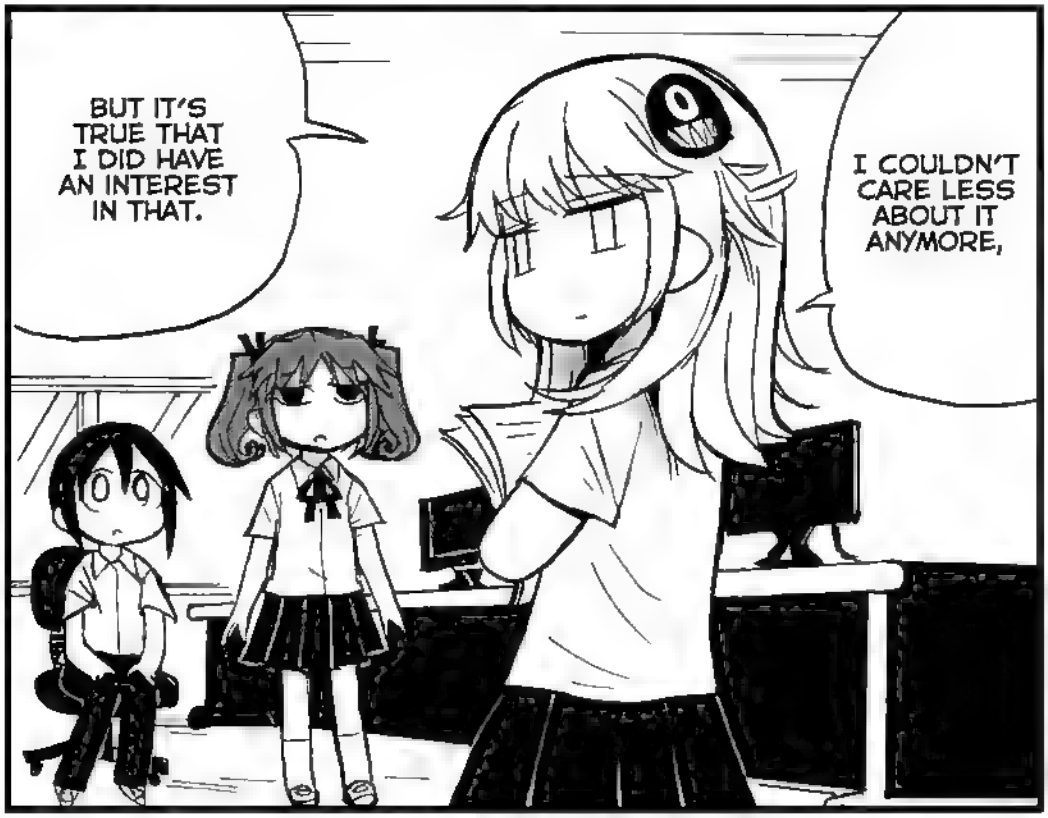
ARE YOU ACTUALLY TRYING TO MAKE A KILLING MACHINE?

SO THIS IS NINETY PERCENT OF ME... CAN'T YOU JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT?
I'M LIKE THIS FOR NINETY PERCENT OF THE DAY,

UGH...

WELL... THAT'S IN THE PAST, OKAY?




BUT IT'S TRUE THAT I DID HAVE AN INTEREST IN THAT.
I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT IT ANYMORE,

LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY...
RIGHT.

HAVE YOU EVER HELD A KNIFE?

HAVE YOU EVER HELD A KNIFE WITH THE INTENT *TO STAB SOMEONE?*

I HAVE.
AH, NOT LIKE THAT.

I HAVE, BUT I COULDN'T GO THROUGH WITH IT.
MY HAND JUST WOULDN'T STOP SHAKING.

TRY IT OUT ONCE YOU GET HOME.
NO.

AND I PLAYED SO MANY KILLING GAMES...

I COULDN'T PUT ANY STRENGTH INTO MY HAND.

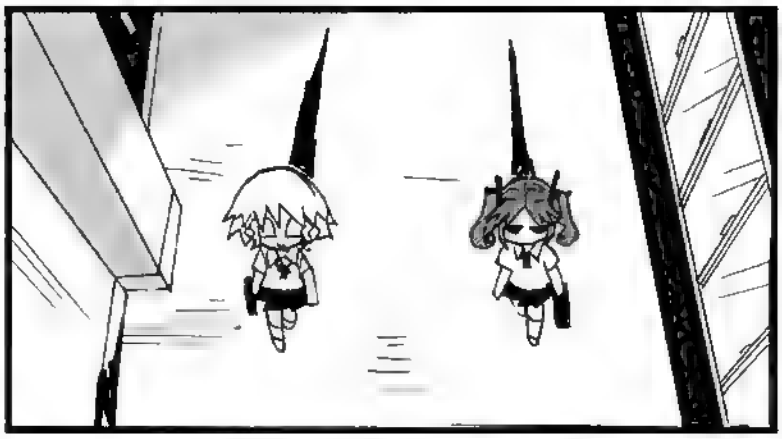
WELL...
...
DID YOU KNOW THAT?

SO IT'S TRUE...

THE PRESIDENT COULDN'T FIND IT IN HERSELF TO KILL, THAT'S WHY SHE APPROACHED BESHIKO.
SHE'S HER FIRST FAILURE.

THERE'S SOMEONE SHE WANTS DEAD THAT MUCH?

SHE MIGHT BE TRYING TO DO THE SAME THING WITH MORISHITA THIS TIME.



CAN WE REALLY TRUST THAT...?
BEATS ME. SHE SAID SHE WAS OVER IT, THOUGH.

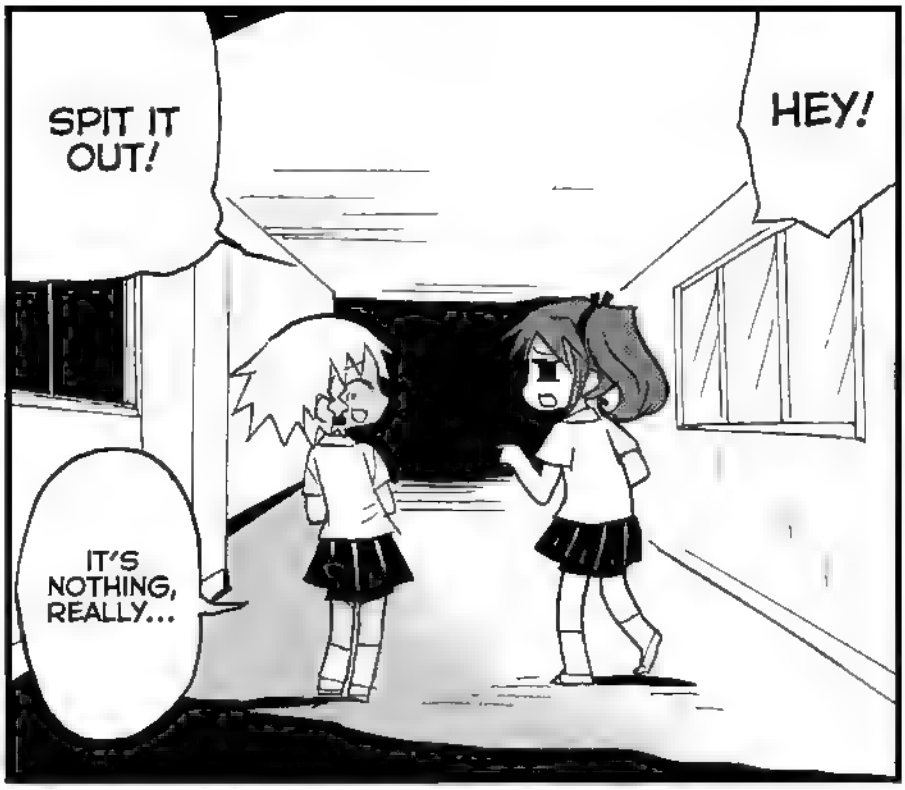
I FEEL LIKE IT'S KIND OF UNLIKE HER TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
SO IT WAS ACTUALLY SOMEWHAT RIGHT.
RIGHT.

WHA? THAT ACTUALLY SOUNDS POSSI-BLE...
"I'M THE PRESI-DENT'S SLAVE TOO!"
SO WHAT WOULD YOU DO? IF TOMORROW SUWA-KUN SUDDENLY COMES OUT AND SAY...

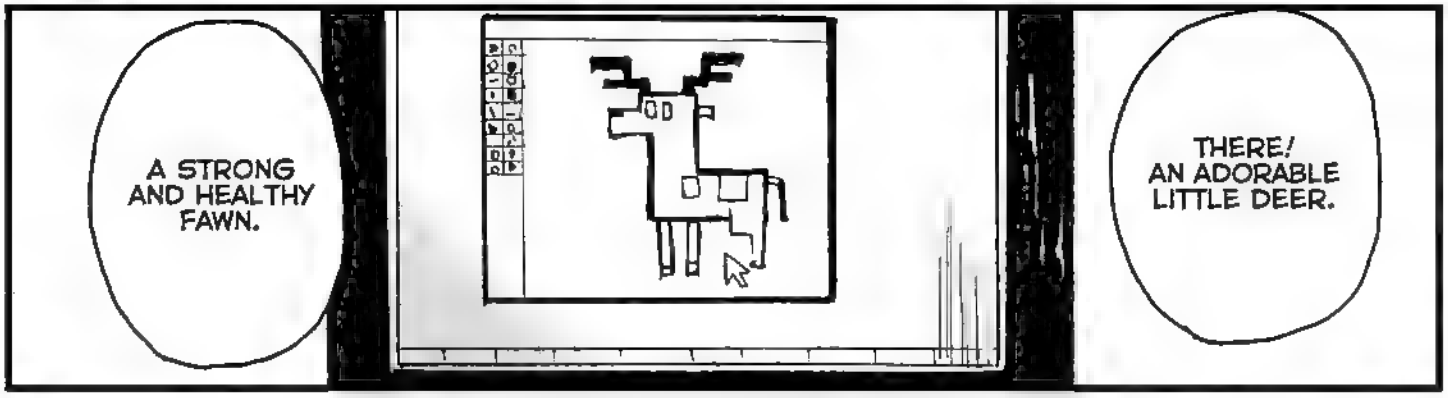
MM...
IN A WAY, I GU-ESS?

...HUH? WAIT, ARE YOU ONE OF HER SLAVES TOO?

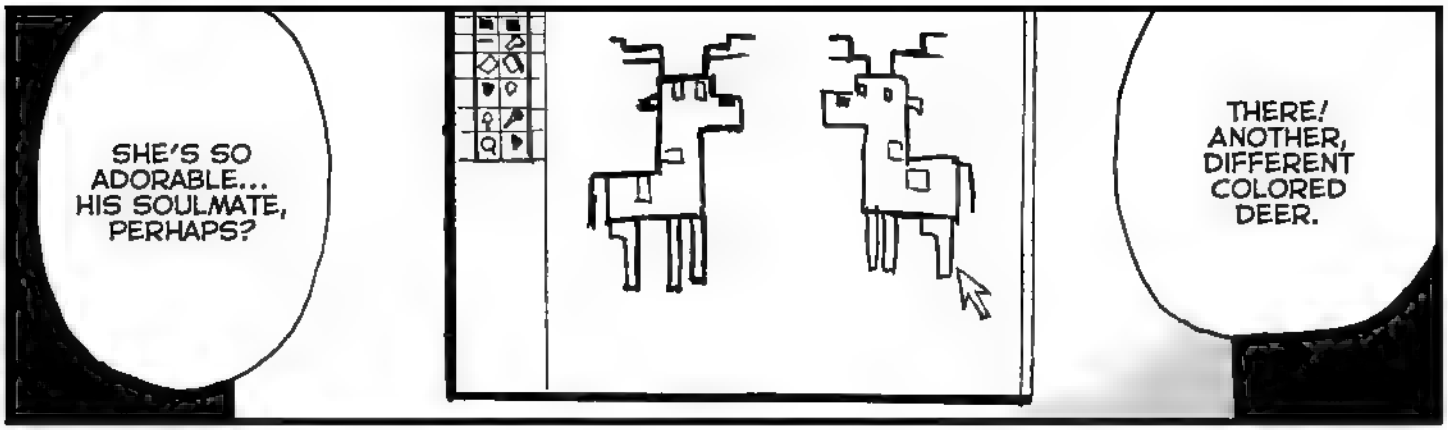
WHAT DID SHE DO TO YOU?
!
UHH...
IN WHAT WAY?


SPIT IT OUT!
HEY!
IT'S NOTHING, REALLY...

I CAN'T TELL YOU.


A STRONG AND HEALTHY FAWN.
THERE! AN ADORABLE LITTLE DEER.

LIVE STRONG, LITTLE DEER...
HE'LL SOON BE OFF TO AN EXCITING ADVENTURE...

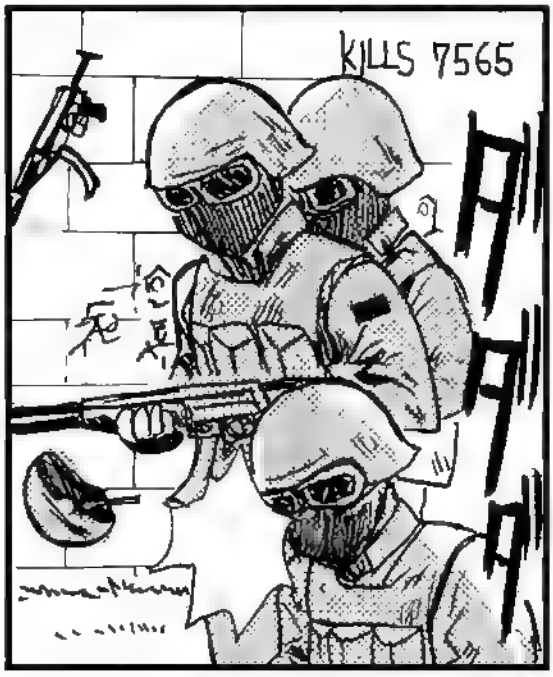

SHE'S SO ADORABLE... HIS SOULMATE, PERHAPS?
THERE! ANOTHER, DIFFERENT COLORED DEER.

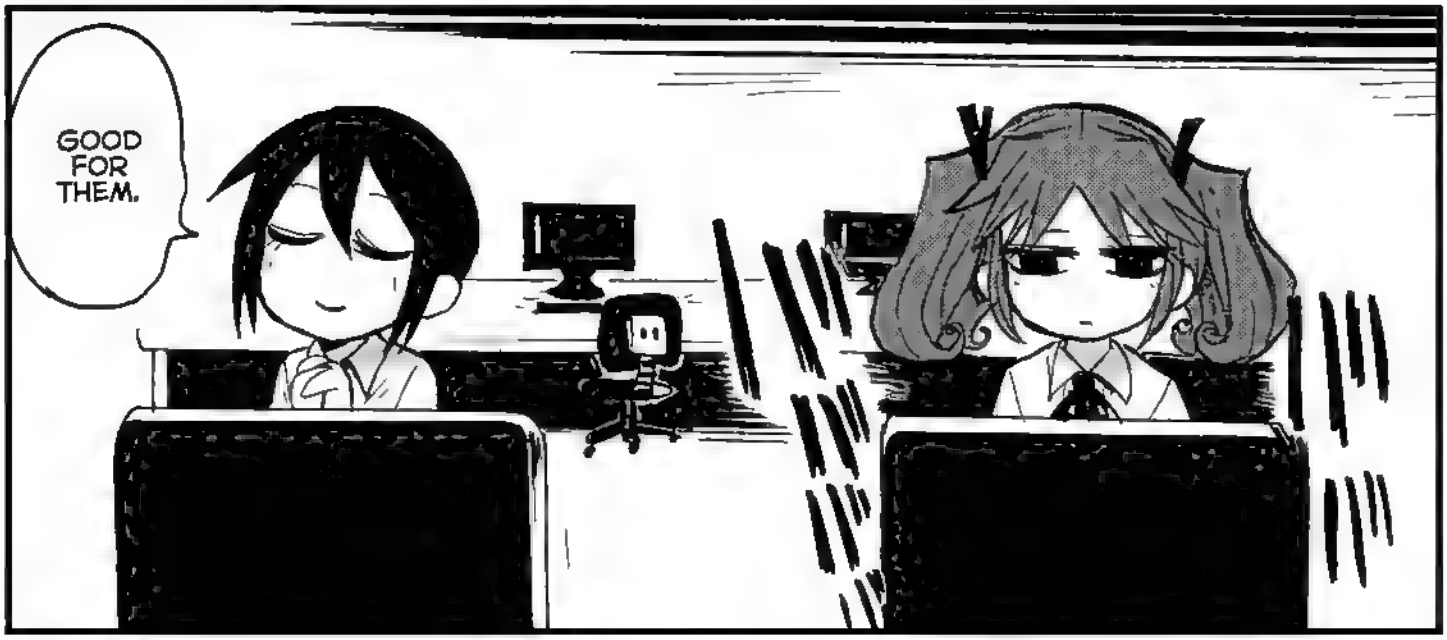
WHAT A WARM FAMILY THIS WILL BE...
I KNOW! TIME TO MAKE THEIR CHILDREN.

ゴトッ
ゴトッ

KILLS 7534

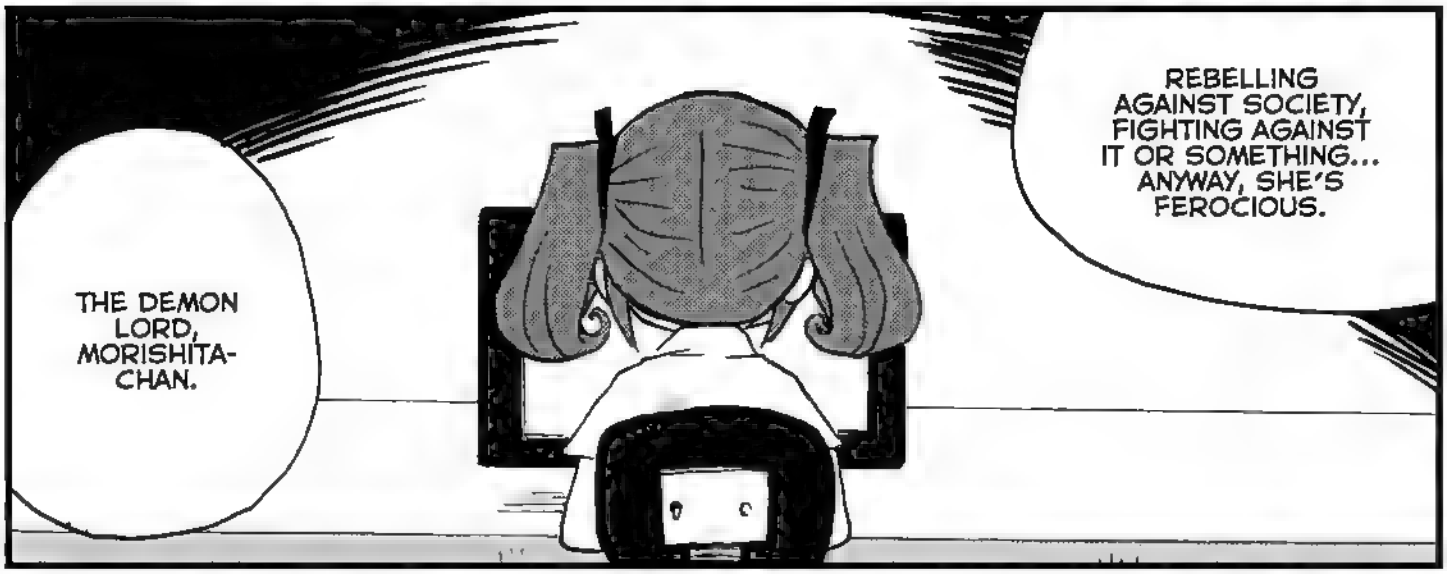
KILLS 750


KILLS 7565


GOOD FOR THEM.

THE GENTLE SUWA-KUN.
ATTACHED TO OBJECTS AND DIGITAL ORGANISMS TO AN ABNORMAL DEGREE.

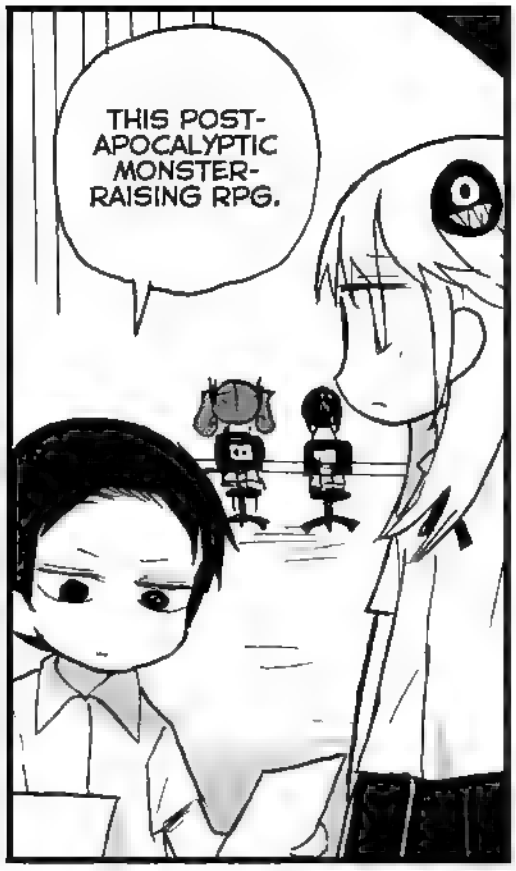
YEAH, THEY SURE ARE SOMETHING ELSE.

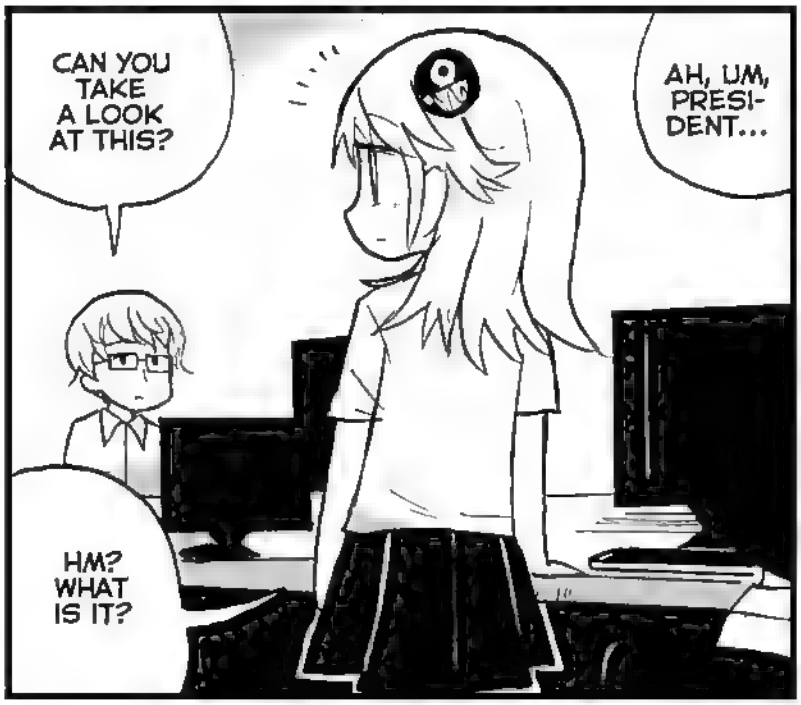

THE DEMON LORD, MORISHITA-CHAN.
REBELLING AGAINST SOCIETY, FIGHTING AGAINST IT OR SOMETHING... ANYWAY, SHE'S FEROCIOUS.

THEY'RE MAKING A GAME RIGHT NOW.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

ONCE THEY GET SERIOUS ABOUT IT.
I'M SURE THEY'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE GREAT GAMES

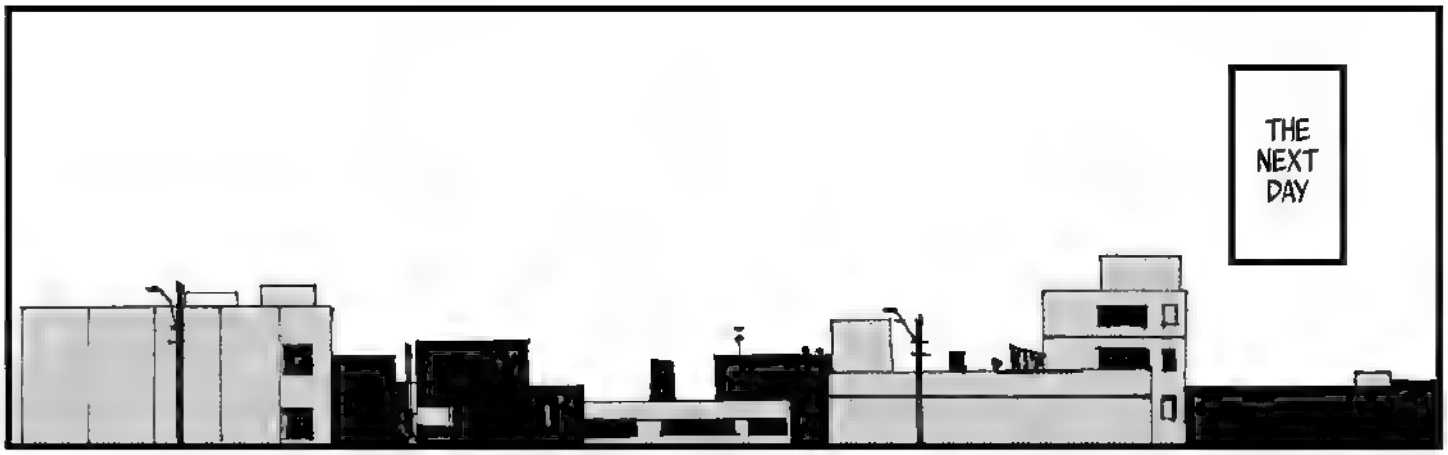
BUT WELL, I'D SAY IT'S A PRETTY GOOD FIRST TRY.
WE ENDED UP JUST SLAPPING THEM TOGETHER, DIDN'T WE?


THIS POST-APOCALYPTIC MONSTER-RAISING RPG.


CAN YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THIS?
AH, UM, PRESI-DENT...
HM? WHAT IS IT?

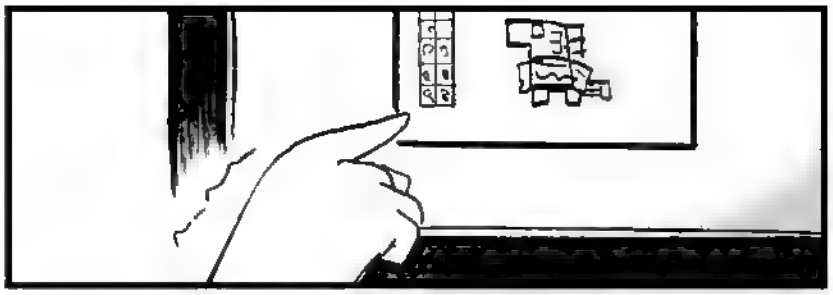
SURE...
YOU KNOW, I'M EXPECTING GREAT THINGS OUT OF THEM.

LET'S SEE


THE NEXT DAY

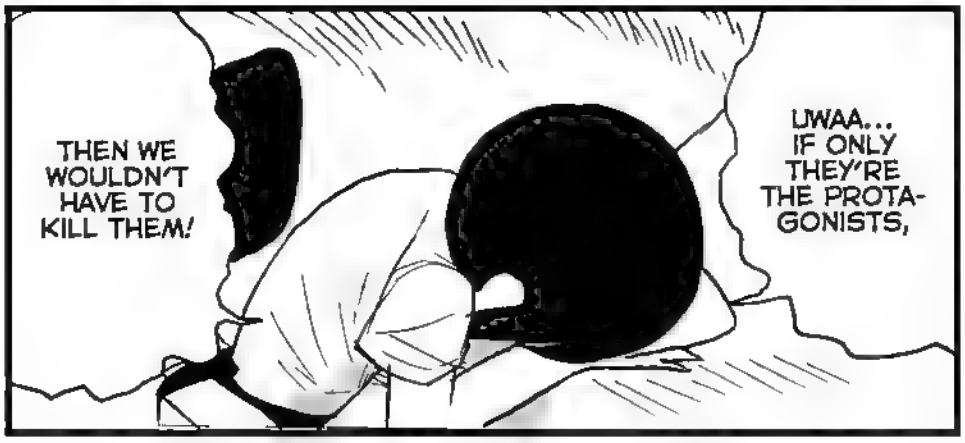
...UH, HE'S CRYING.

えーん
えーん



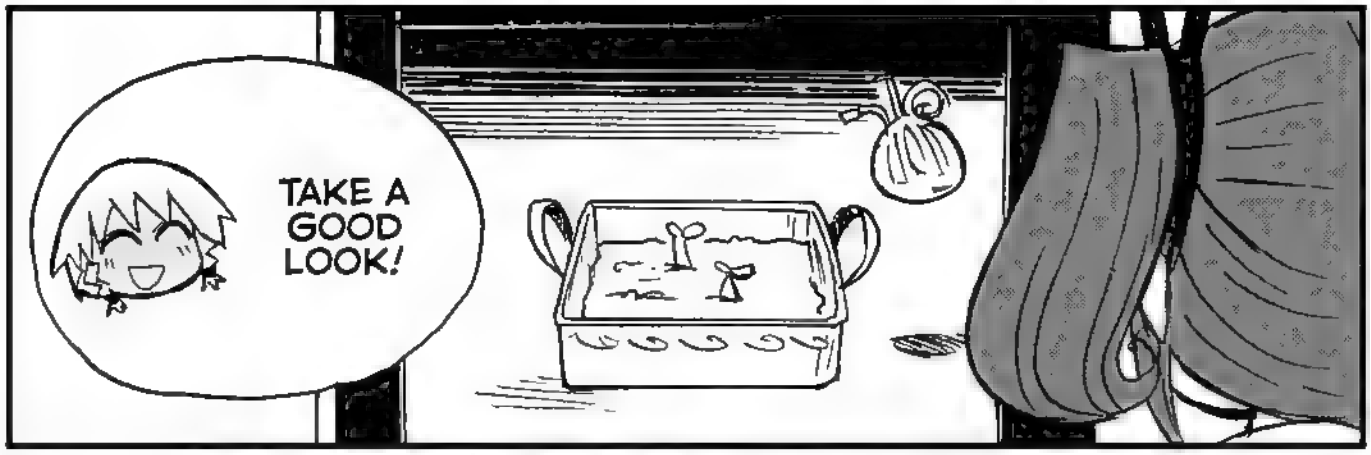
W-WHAT'S WRONG...?

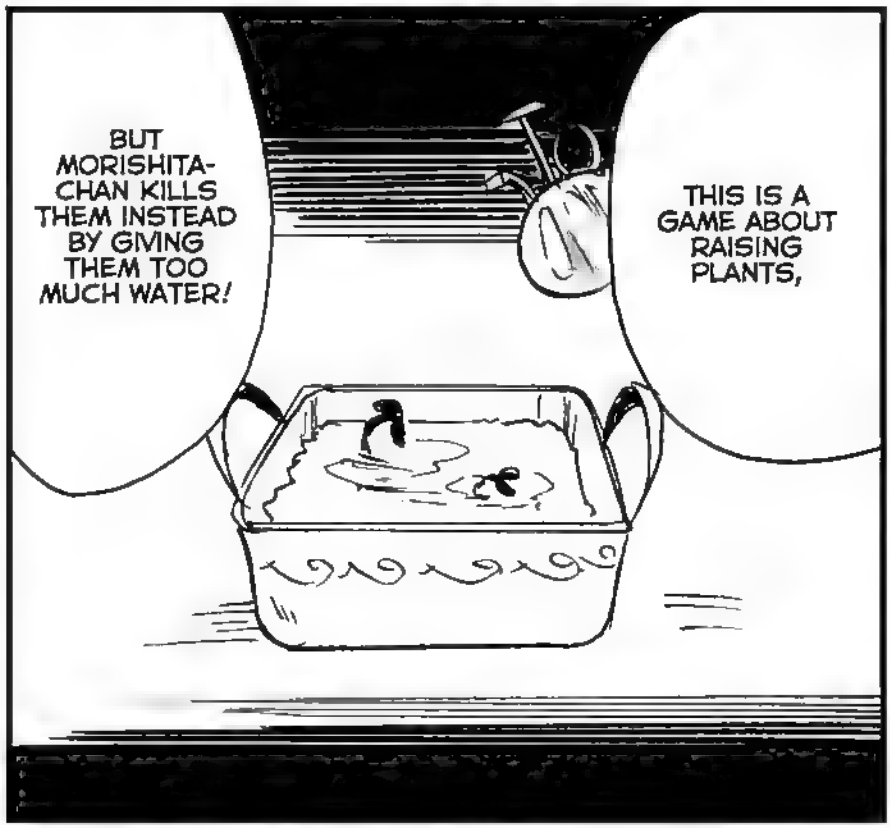
HA?
I FEEL SO BAD FOR THE MON-STERS.

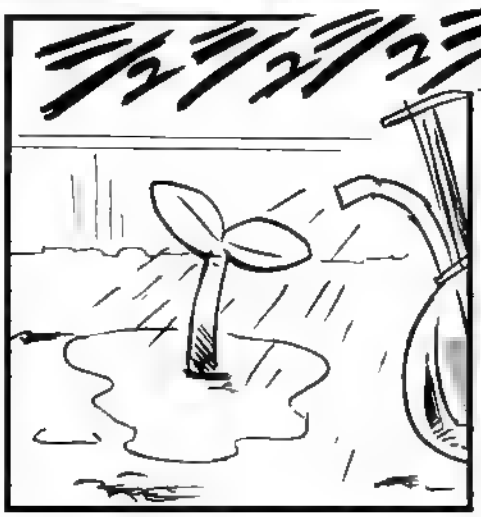

THEN WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO KILL THEM!
UWAA... IF ONLY THEY'RE THE PROTA-GONISTS,

WHY WERE THEY EVEN BORN...? THEY LIVE JUST TO BE KILLED BY THE PROTAGO-NIST...

LOOK AT MORISHITA-CHAN.
UH... YOU'RE OVERTHINK-ING THIS.


TAKE A GOOD LOOK!


BUT MORISHITA-CHAN KILLS THEM INSTEAD BY GIVING THEM TOO MUCH WATER!
THIS IS A GAME ABOUT RAISING PLANTS,



DEAD

WE'RE GOING TO LET LOOSE THE DISAS-TERS!
LET'S PLAY A CITY BUILDER.
STOP!

I WANT TO PLAY SOMETHING ELSE.
USE ANYTHING YOU CAN AS A WEAPON!

MORISHITA-CHAN'S BEEN A REAL GOOD GIRL LATELY, EVEN IN CLASS!
WHAT ARE YOU ON ABOUT?
YOU'LL GROW UP CRUEL IF YOU KEEP DOING THIS!

WHICH ONE?
LET'S ANNOUNCE THIS AT THE NEXT ACADEMIC CONFE-RENCE!
THAT'S INCREDIBLE! WE'VE PROVEN THAT GAMES CAN LOWER A CHILD'S AGGRESSION!

SHE DOESN'T BREAK CHOPSTICKS OR RIP PAPERS TO SHREDS LIKE BEFORE ANYMORE. RIGHT?
REALLY ...?

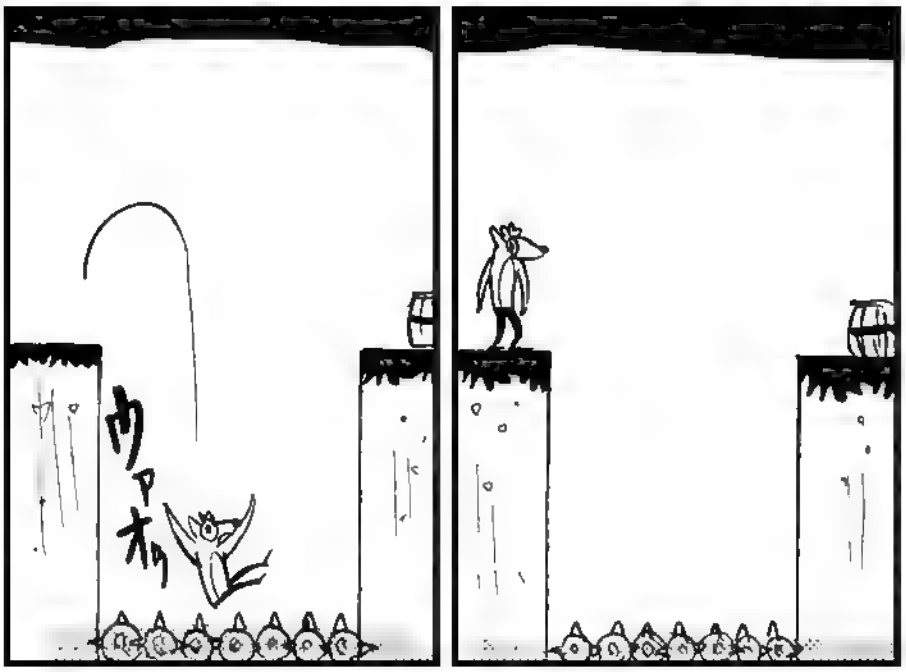
YOU'RE BEING UNREASON-ABLE...
YOU'RE VICTIMIZING DIGITAL ORGANISMS!
I'M AGAINST THIS!

A FRIEND OF MINE FELT BAD FOR ME AND WANTED TO CHEER ME UP...
ONE DAY, I WAS CRYING AFTER MY PARENTS SCOLDED ME.

HERE'S A MOVING TALE CONCERNING THE DEATH OF DIGITAL ORGANISMS FOR YOU.
...OH WELL.

LOOK...!
AS A JOKE, HE MADE THE PLAYER CHARACTER DO THIS...

あはははは

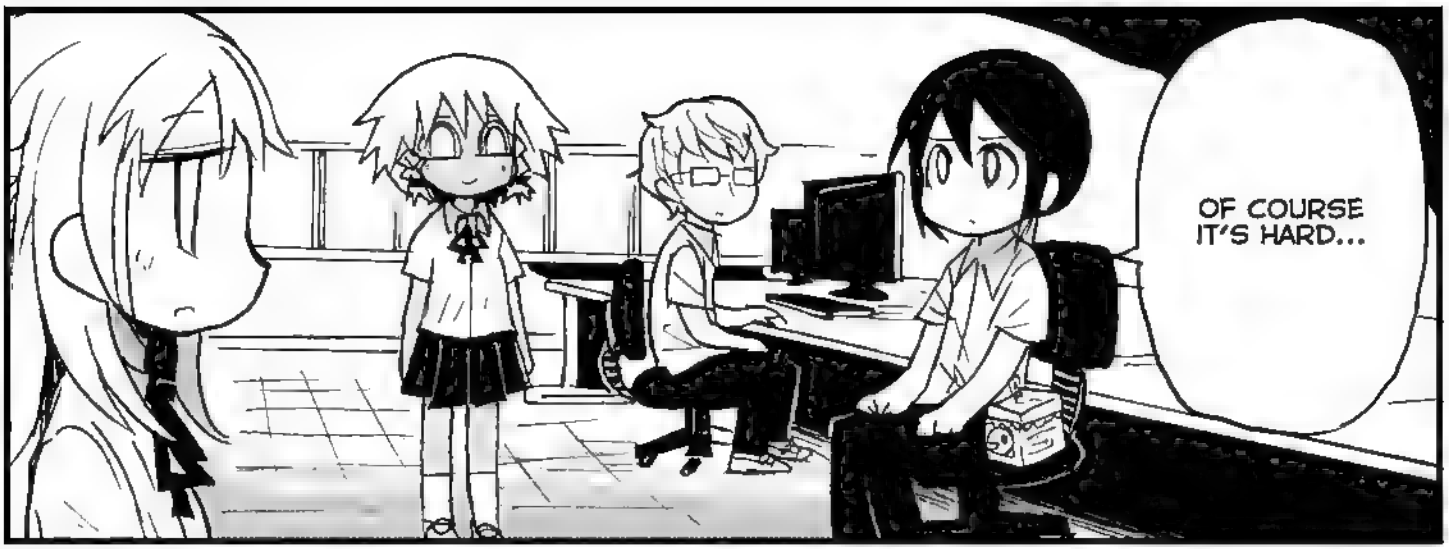


THIS IS WHY I HATE GAMES!
NO WAY YOU HATE GAMES, YOU'RE IN THE GAME CLUB...

THAT'S JUST PLAIN MEAN!

NO, THERE TOTALLY ARE... PUZZLE GAMES, SPORTS GAMES...
THERE ARE NO GAMES WITHOUT ANY DEPICTION OF VIOLENCE!
WHAT ARE YOU ON ABOUT!?
WELL, WHAT-EVER...

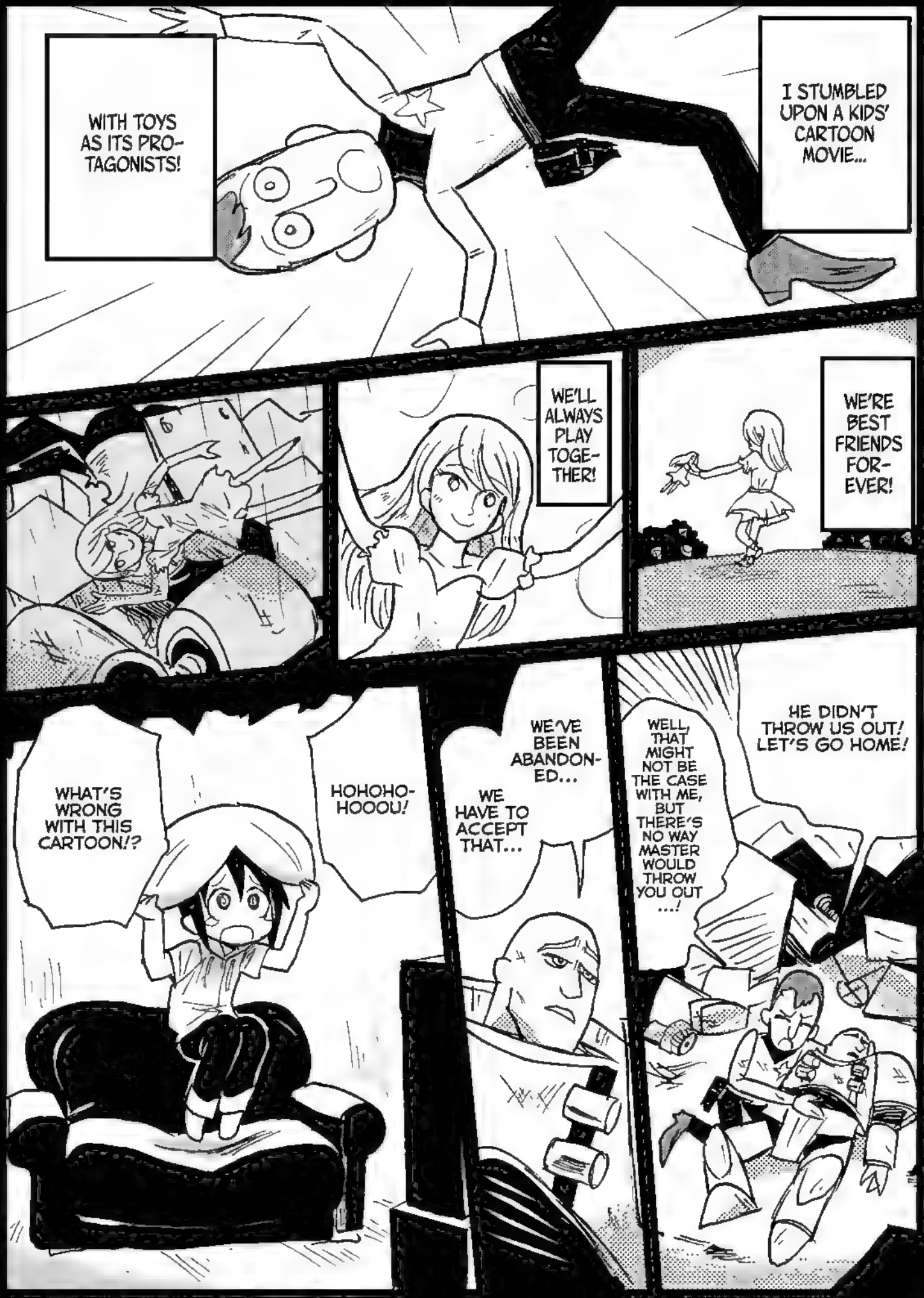
WHY ARE YOU SO EXTREME?
HMM, BUT ISN'T IT HARD LIVING LIKE THAT?


OF COURSE IT'S HARD...

'TIS A STORY THAT BRINGS TEARS TO BOTH THE STORYTELLER AND THE LISTENER...

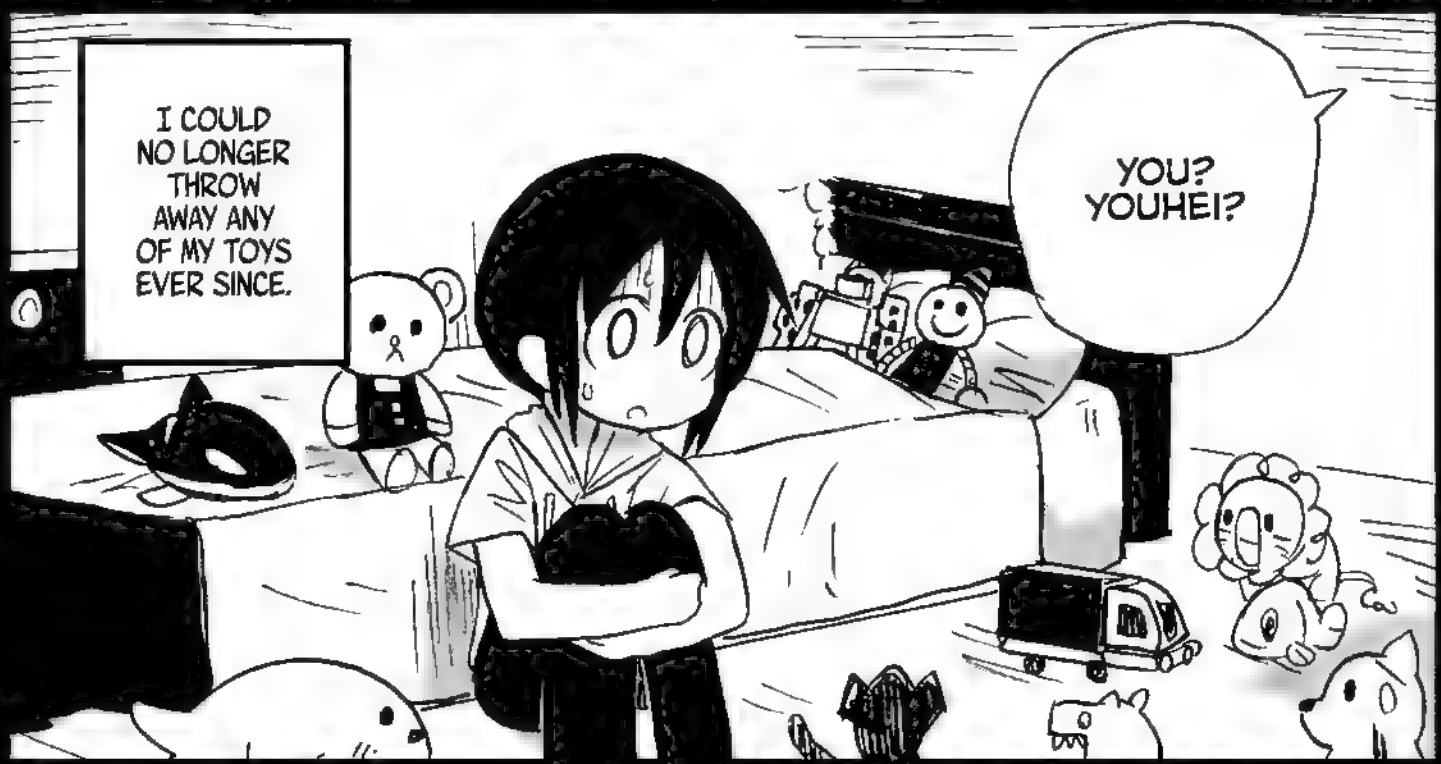
BUT THERE'S A REASON FOR THIS...

INDEED. IN THAT FATEFUL DAY...


I STUMBLED UPON A KIDS' CARTOON MOVIE...
WITH TOYS AS ITS PRO-TAGONISTS!
WE'RE BEST FRIENDS FOR-EVER!
WE'LL ALWAYS PLAY TOGE-THER!
HE DIDN'T THROW US OUT! LET'S GO HOME!
WELL, THAT MIGHT NOT BE THE CASE WITH ME, BUT THERE'S NO WAY MASTER WOULD THROW YOU OUT ...!
WE'VE BEEN ABANDON-ED...
WE HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT...
HOHOHO-HOOOU!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS CARTOON!?

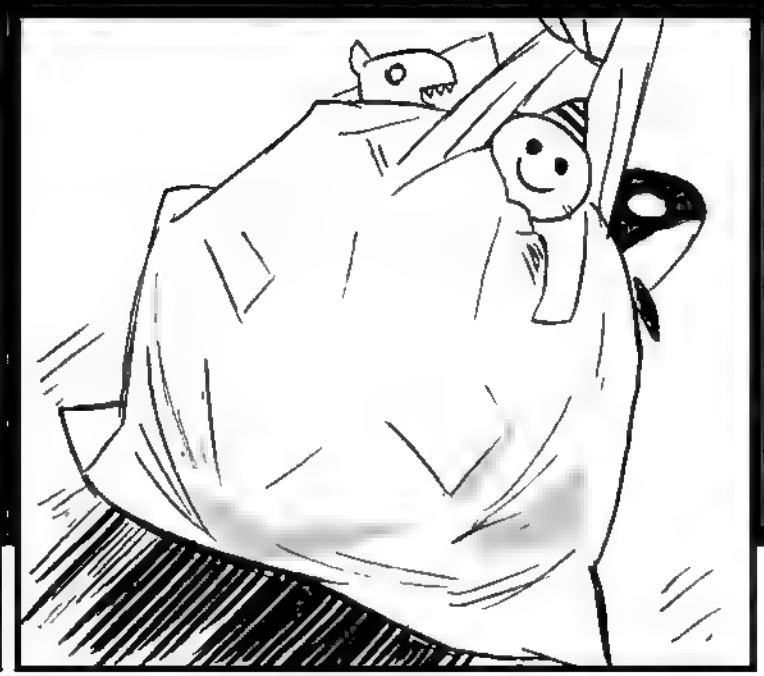
MOM... MOM TOLD ME TO THROW YOU OUT...!
I'M SORRY, PITCH... I'M SORRY, ORKY...

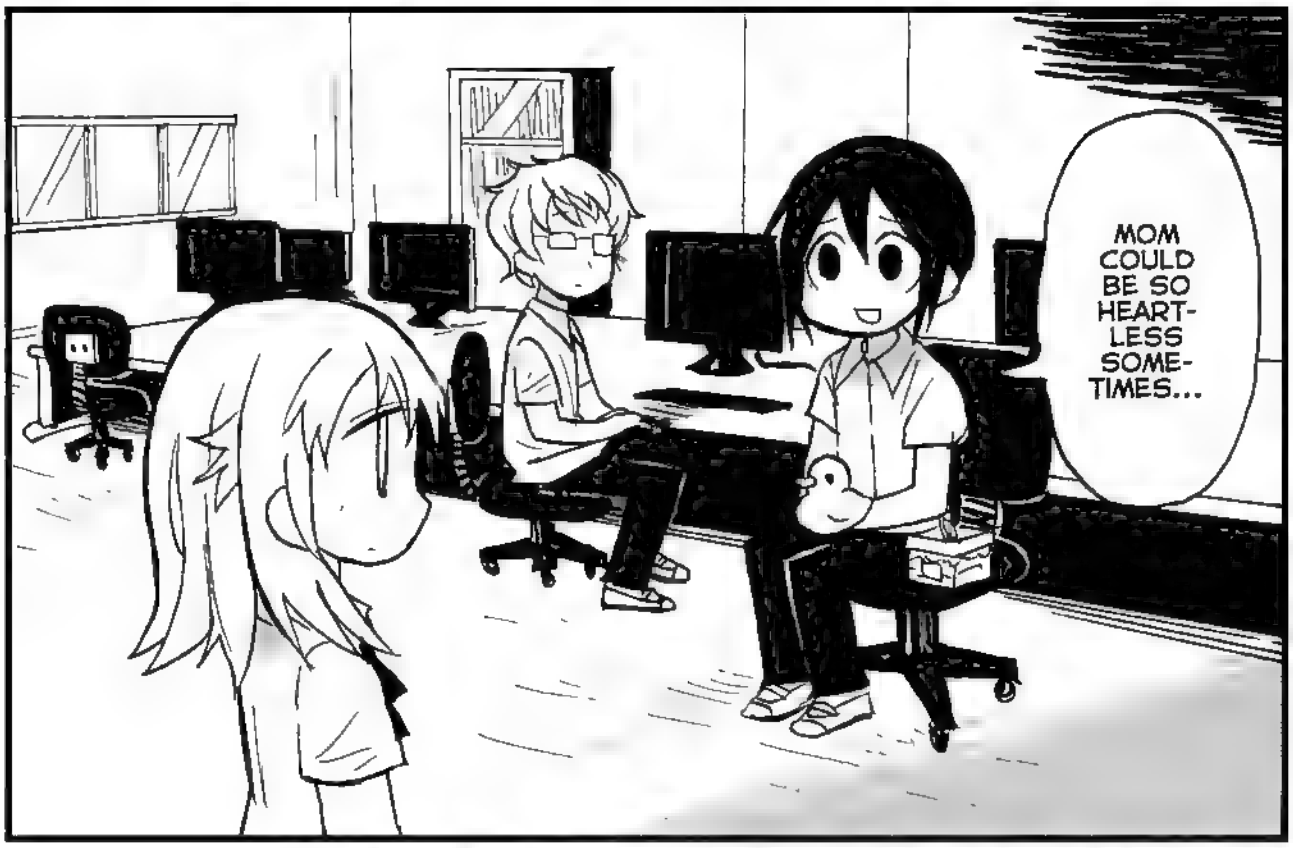
I... I...
I'VE BEEN SO CRUEL...!

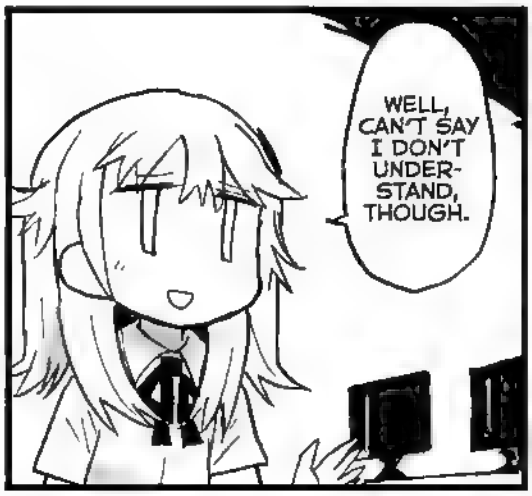

I COULD NO LONGER THROW AWAY ANY OF MY TOYS EVER SINCE.
YOU? YOUHEI?

I CAN'T. THEY'RE ALL MY FRIENDS.

YOUR ROOM'S SO CLUTTERED. THROW OUT ANYTHING YOU DON'T NEED ANYMORE.

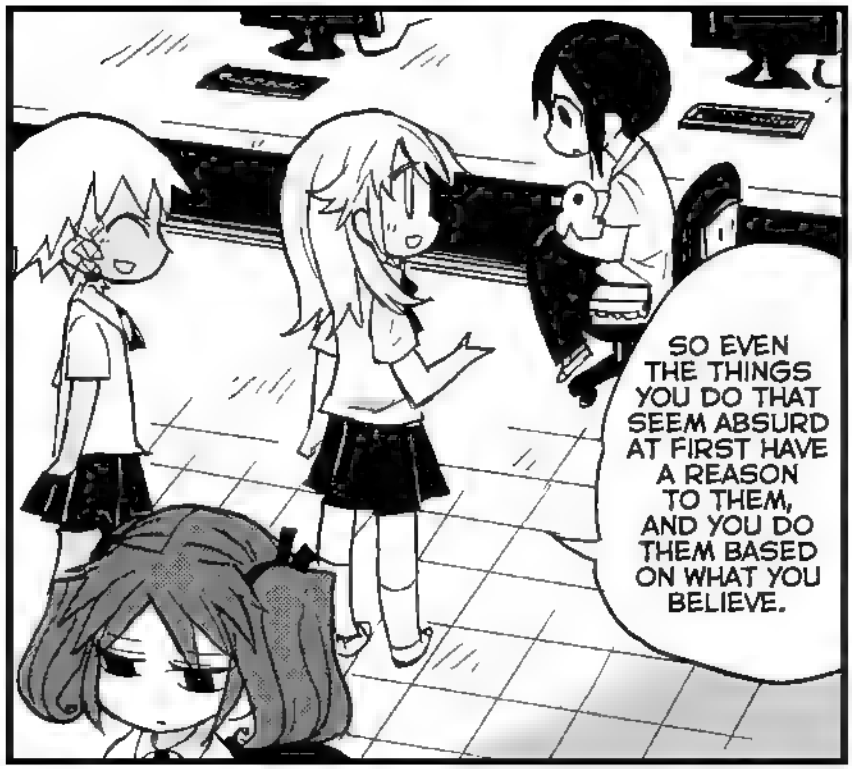


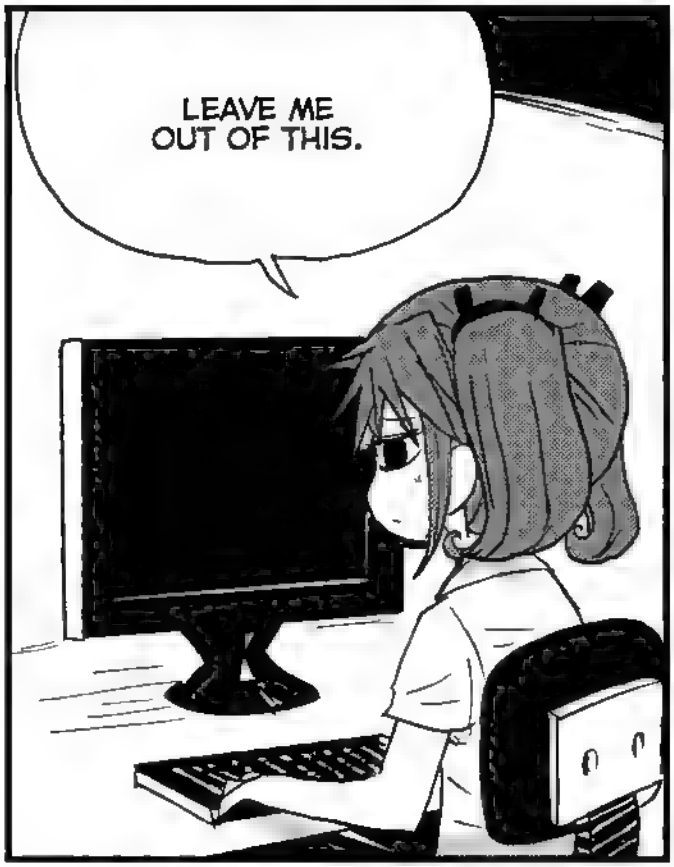

MOM COULD BE SO HEART-LESS SOME-TIMES...


WELL, CAN'T SAY I DON'T UNDER-STAND, THOUGH.

NOTHING GOOD WOULD COME OUT OF GETTING ATTACHED TO YOUR TOYS...

MORISHITA-CHAN ALSO ACTS THE WAY SHE DOES FOR A REASON.
IF I MAY, THOUGH,


SO EVEN THE THINGS YOU DO THAT SEEM ABSURD AT FIRST HAVE A REASON TO THEM, AND YOU DO THEM BASED ON WHAT YOU BELIEVE.


LEAVE ME OUT OF THIS.

HUH?
RIGHT?
NO, I DON'T...

BEHIND HER VIOLENCE...?
THERE'S A REASON

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS.
DON'T SPREAD WEIRD RUMORS.

LIKE... FROM BULLYING IN PRIMARY OR SOMETHING?
I'VE NEVER EVEN CONSIDERED THAT.

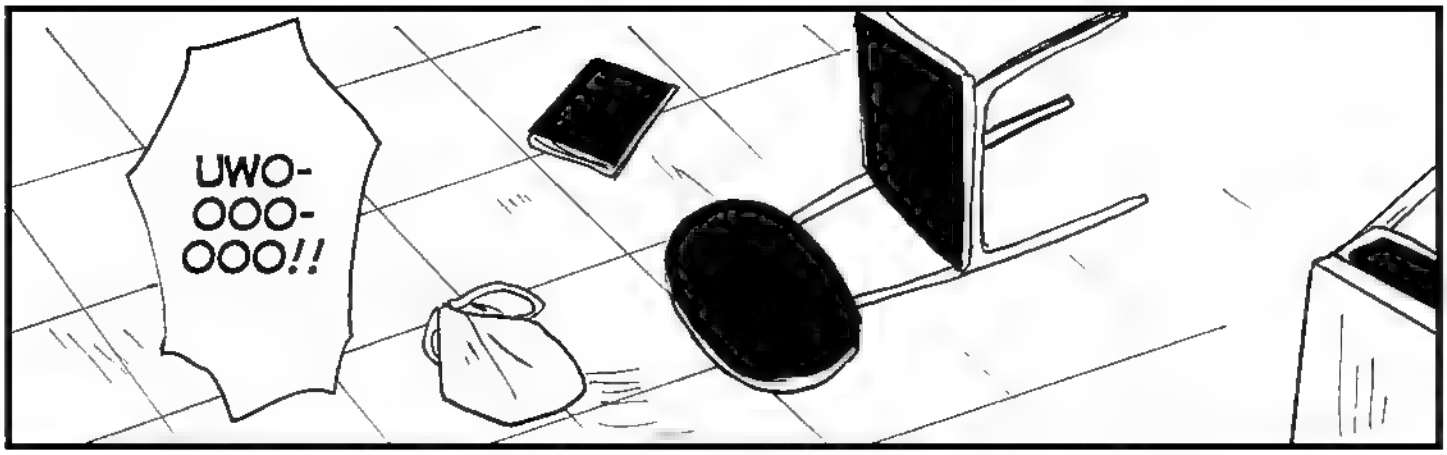
IT'S SERIOUSLY NOTHING INTERESTING. I HAVE NO IDEA WHY YOU'D WANT TO LISTEN TO THIS.

DON'T BLINDLY FOLLOW WHAT OTHERS SAY. FOLLOW WHAT YOUR HEART SAYS IS TRUE.
MANAMI-CHAN, ALWAYS DO WHAT YOU THINK IS RIGHT.

DON'T LET YOUR FEAR OF CONFLICT KEEP YOU FROM DOING WHAT YOU THINK IS RIGHT.

TAKING PART IN BULLYING BECAUSE THEY'RE AFRAID OF BEING HATED...
PRETENDING NOT TO SEE BECAUSE THEY'RE AFRAID OF GETTING INTO FIGHTS,
THERE ARE MANY THAT TURN A BLIND EYE TO THE WRONGS OF THE WORLD,

I'LL PUNCH.
I GOT IT, GRANDMA.


UWO-
OOO-
OOO!!

WHO IS IT!? WHO DID IT!? DON'T HIDE!
COME OUT, YOU COWARD!

...I'VE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS.

WAAA-
AAAA-
AHHH!

YOU DON'T HATE MY WAY OF THINKING.
WHAT YOU HATE IS ME PERSONALLY, ISN'T IT?

I JUST HATE THOSE THAT DO THINGS BEHIND PEOPLE'S BACKS.

YOU'RE JUST FORCING YOURSELF ONTO OTHERS!
I'M NOT!
I COULDN'T CARE LESS HOWEVER YOUR HEAD WORKS. IT'S YOU I DON'T LIKE.

EXACTLY.

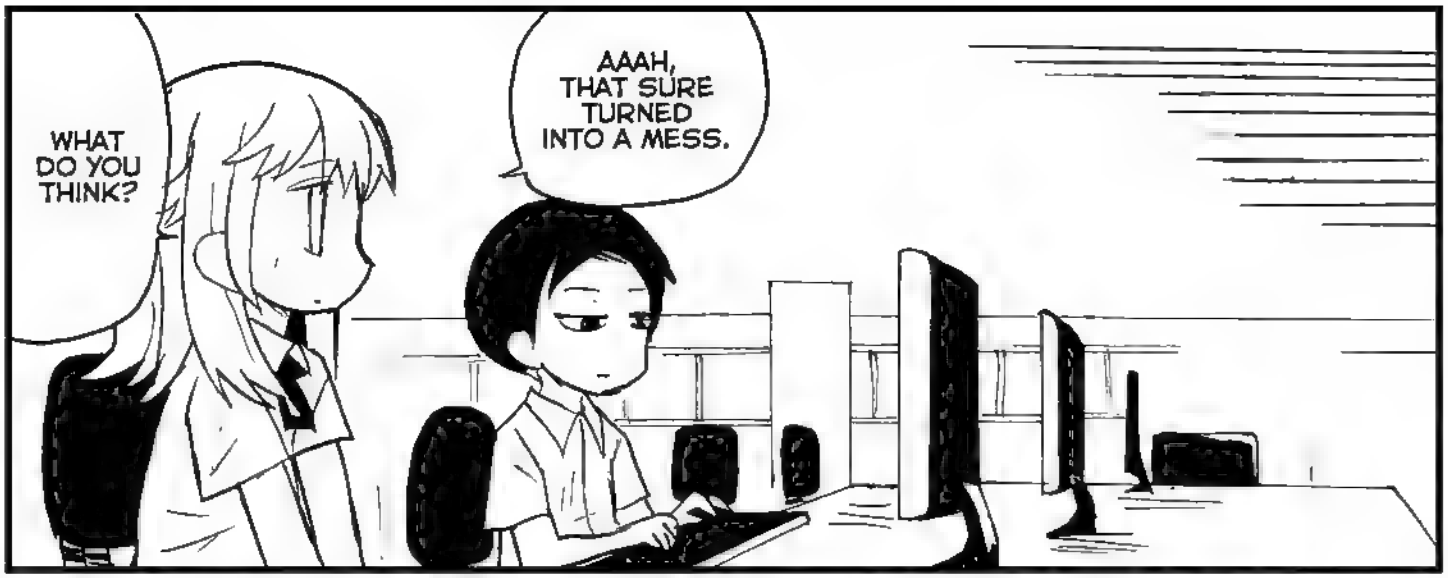
GOING AROUND BREAKING THEM IS NOTHING SHORT OF BARBARIC.
OBJECTS LAST LONGER THAN PEOPLE, AND WHAT OBJECT A PERSON THINKS IS PRECIOUS DEPENDS ON THE PERSON THEMSELF.

YOU...

LOOK! YOU KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER NOW, RIGHT...?

ALRIGHT, LET'S CALM DOWN!
STOP, STOP.

HAVE THEY ...?
YOU'VE FORMED A DEEPER BOND WITH EACH OTHER...
UHH, THROUGH THIS HONEST CLASH OF OPINIONS,

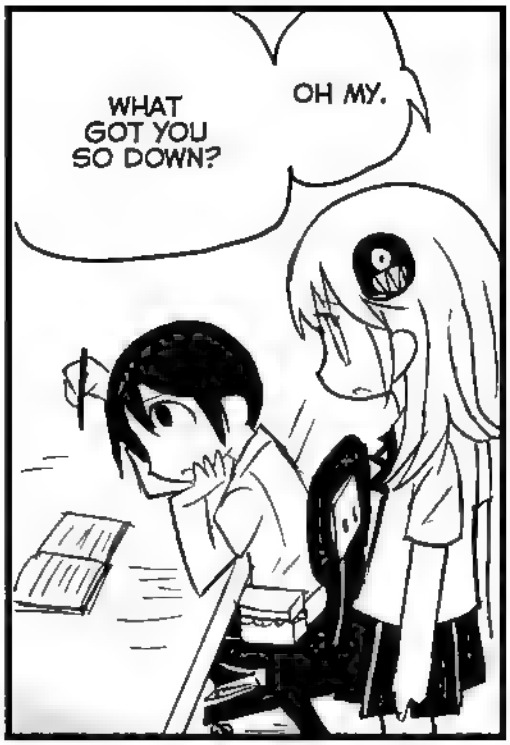

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
AAAH, THAT SURE TURNED INTO A MESS.

I'D SAY I'M MORE ON MORI-SHITA-CHAN'S SIDE.

HUH.
HE'S TRAGIC.
...I PITY SUWA-KUN MORE.

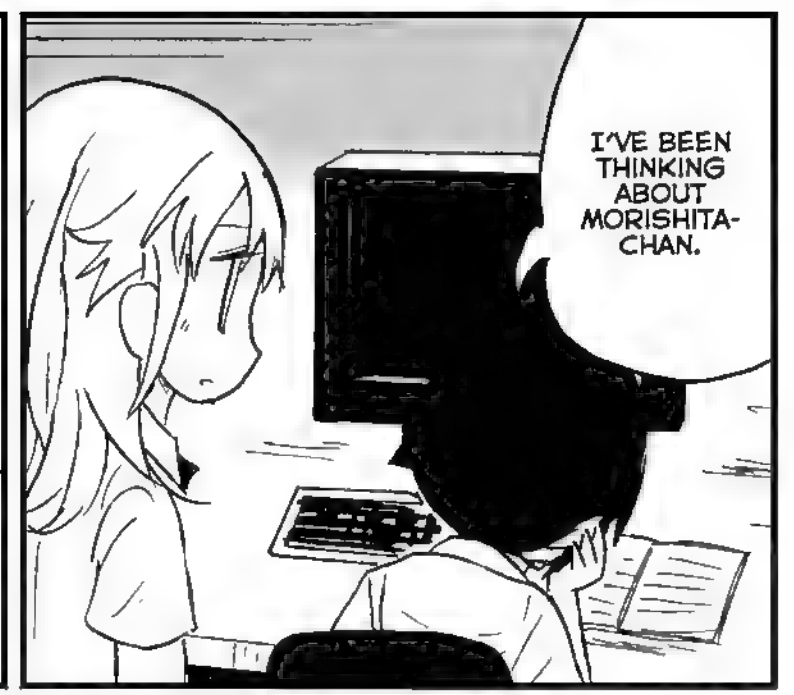
YOU DON'T CARE AT ALL, HUH...?
YOU... YOU'RE RIGHT BESIDE US... AREN'T YOU LISTENING ...?

WHOSE WHAT SIDE?
HUH?
WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON, BESHIKO?


WHAT GOT YOU SO DOWN?
OH MY.

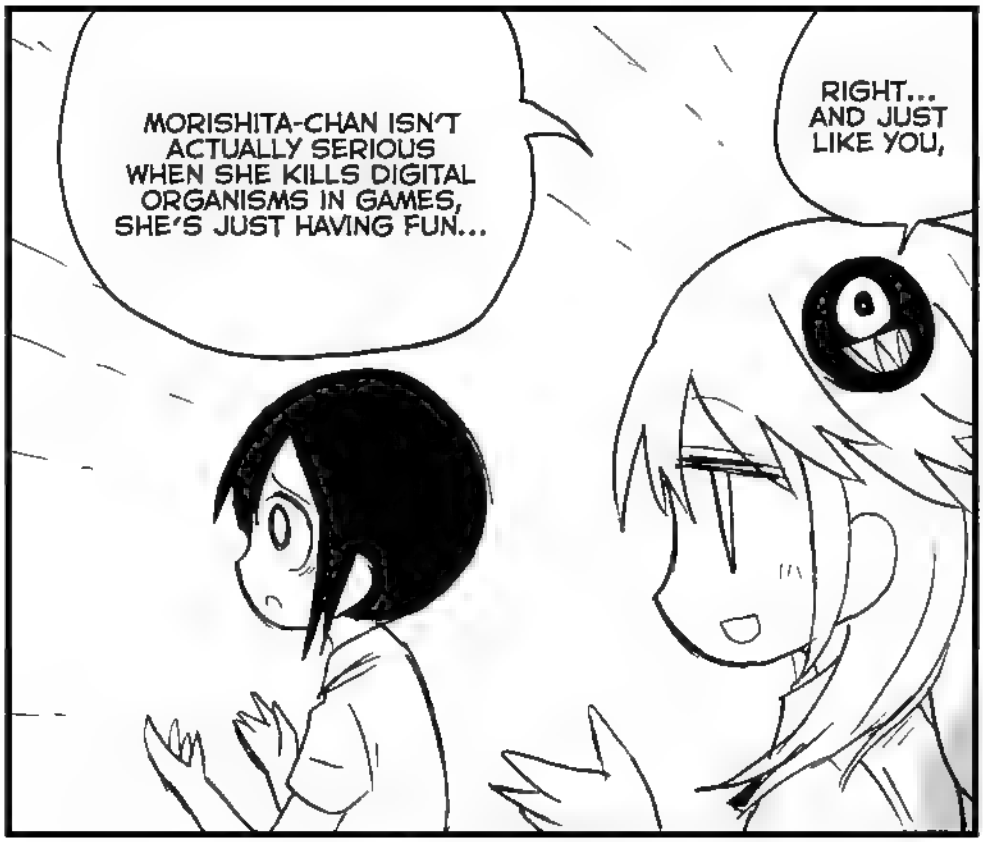
HUUUH?
IT'S TIME TO GO HOME.
I DON'T WANNA LEAVE YET...

CAN PEOPLE REALLY NOT UNDER-STAND EACH OTHER?
AW, POOR YOU. YOU'RE SO DOWN OVER IT...


I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT MORISHITA-CHAN.

LIKE, YOU SAY YOU ONLY LOVE OBJECTS,
BUT WHAT YOU ACTUALLY LOVED WASN'T SOME LIFE-LESS THING... BUT YOUR REAL, LIVING BIRD.
BIRD...

MORISHITA-CHAN MAY SEEM AGGRESSIVE, BUT SHE REALLY ISN'T.
BUT LOOK...


MORISHITA-CHAN ISN'T ACTUALLY SERIOUS WHEN SHE KILLS DIGITAL ORGANISMS IN GAMES, SHE'S JUST HAVING FUN...
RIGHT... AND JUST LIKE YOU,

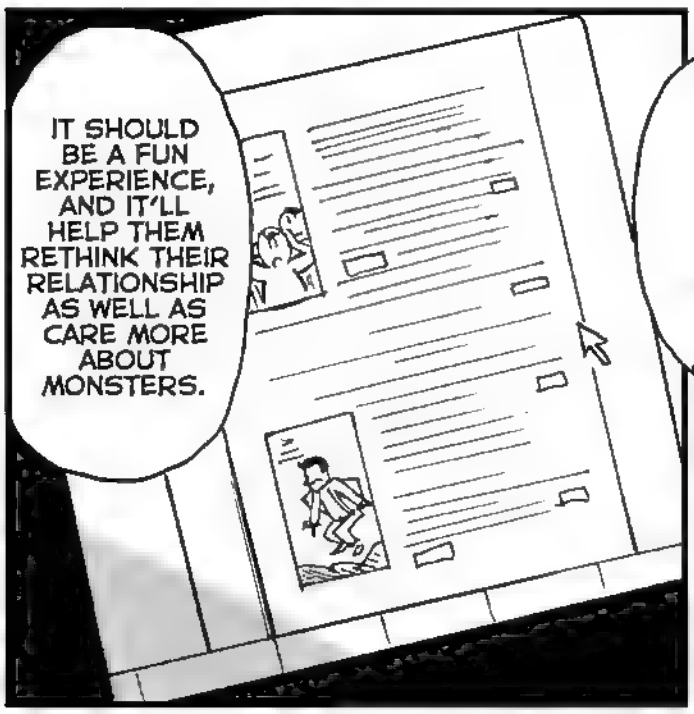
YOU'RE RIGHT. I...
I WANTED TO TAKE CARE OF HER MORE...!

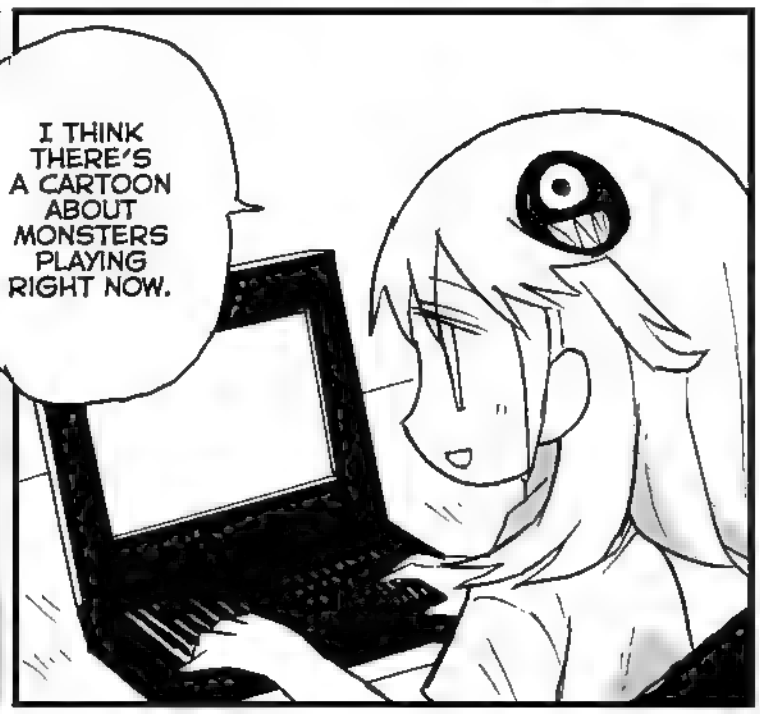
IS A REAL, LIVING PERSON...
WHAT SHE ACTUALLY WANTS TO KILL

UH, NOT THAT, BUT THE DECEIT AND INJUSTICE THAT LURK UNNOTICED...

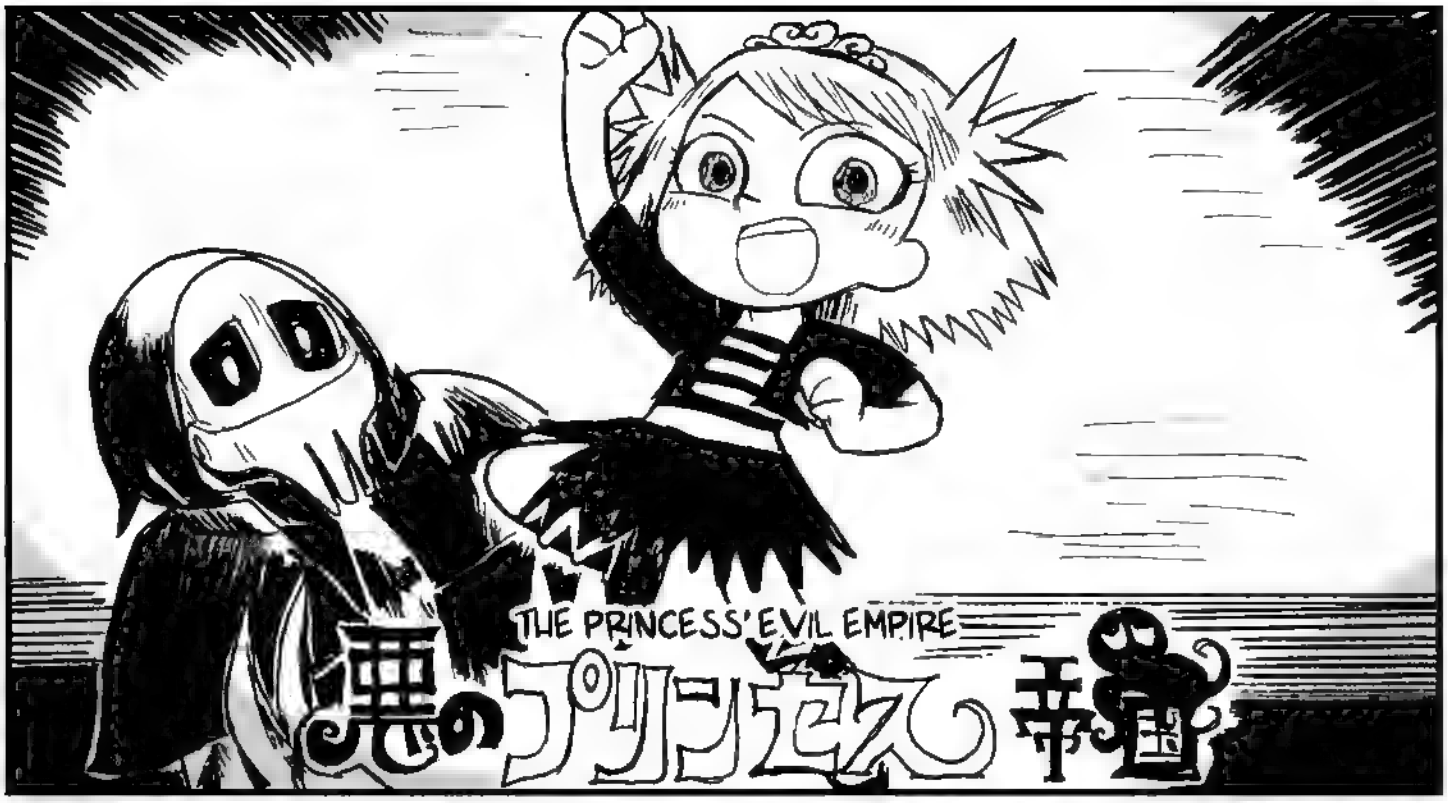
THEY SHOULD GO SEE A MOVIE TOGETHER TO PATCH THINGS UP. IT'LL BE FUN TOO.

I'VE GOT A GREAT IDEA!

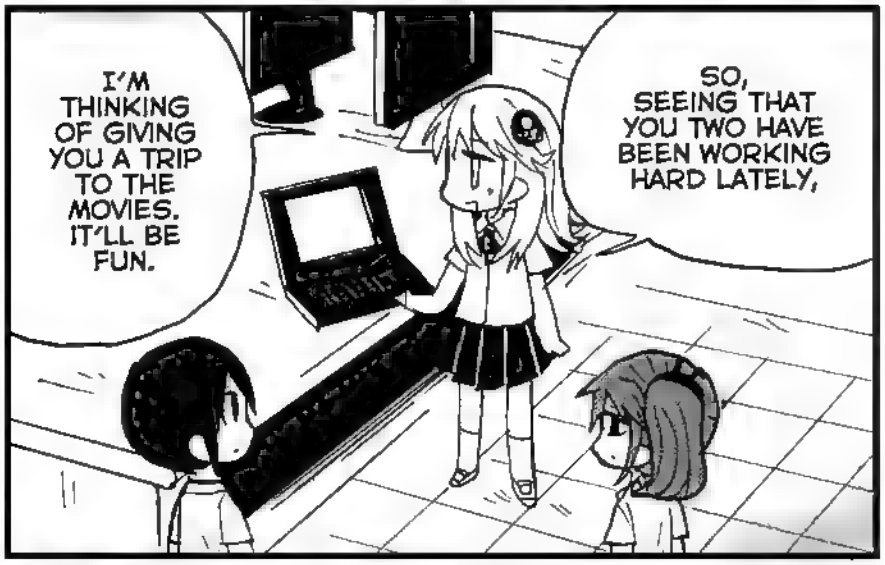

IT SHOULD BE A FUN EXPERIENCE, AND IT'LL HELP THEM RETHINK THEIR RELATIONSHIP AS WELL AS CARE MORE ABOUT MONSTERS.


I THINK THERE'S A CARTOON ABOUT MONSTERS PLAYING RIGHT NOW.

カタ
カタ
カタ


THE PRINCESS' EVIL EMPIRE
悪のプリンセス帝国

AND YOU KNOW, IT'S GOT STUFF ABOUT CARING ABOUT MONSTERS AND WHAT-NOT...
YAAY! I LOVE YOU, PREZ!

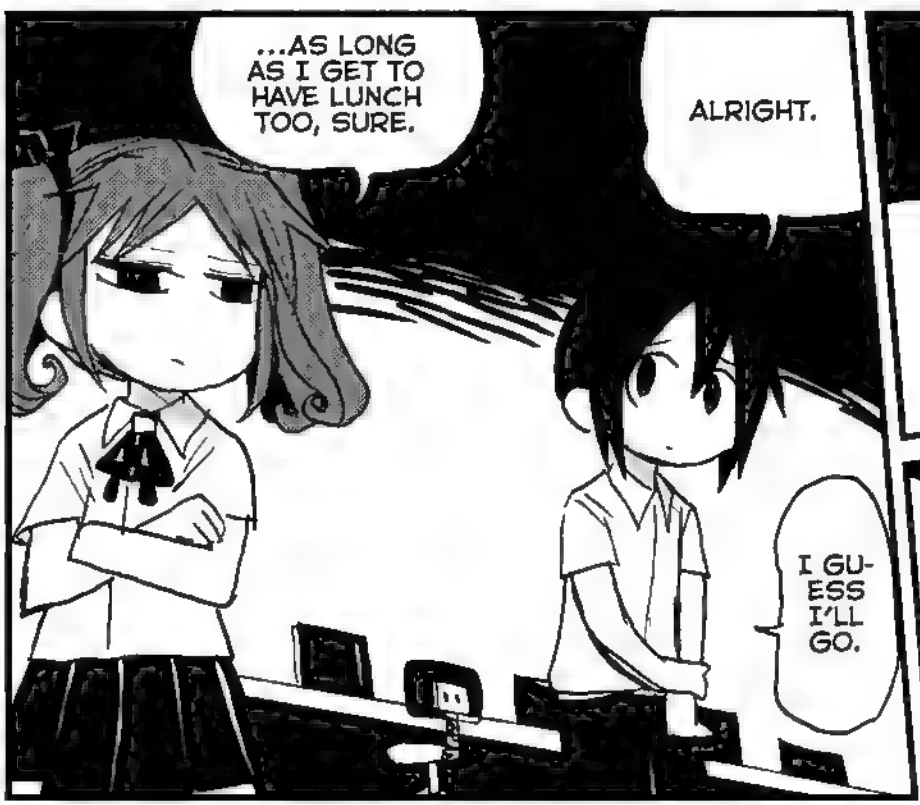

I'M THINKING OF GIVING YOU A TRIP TO THE MOVIES. IT'LL BE FUN.
SO, SEEING THAT YOU TWO HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD LATELY,

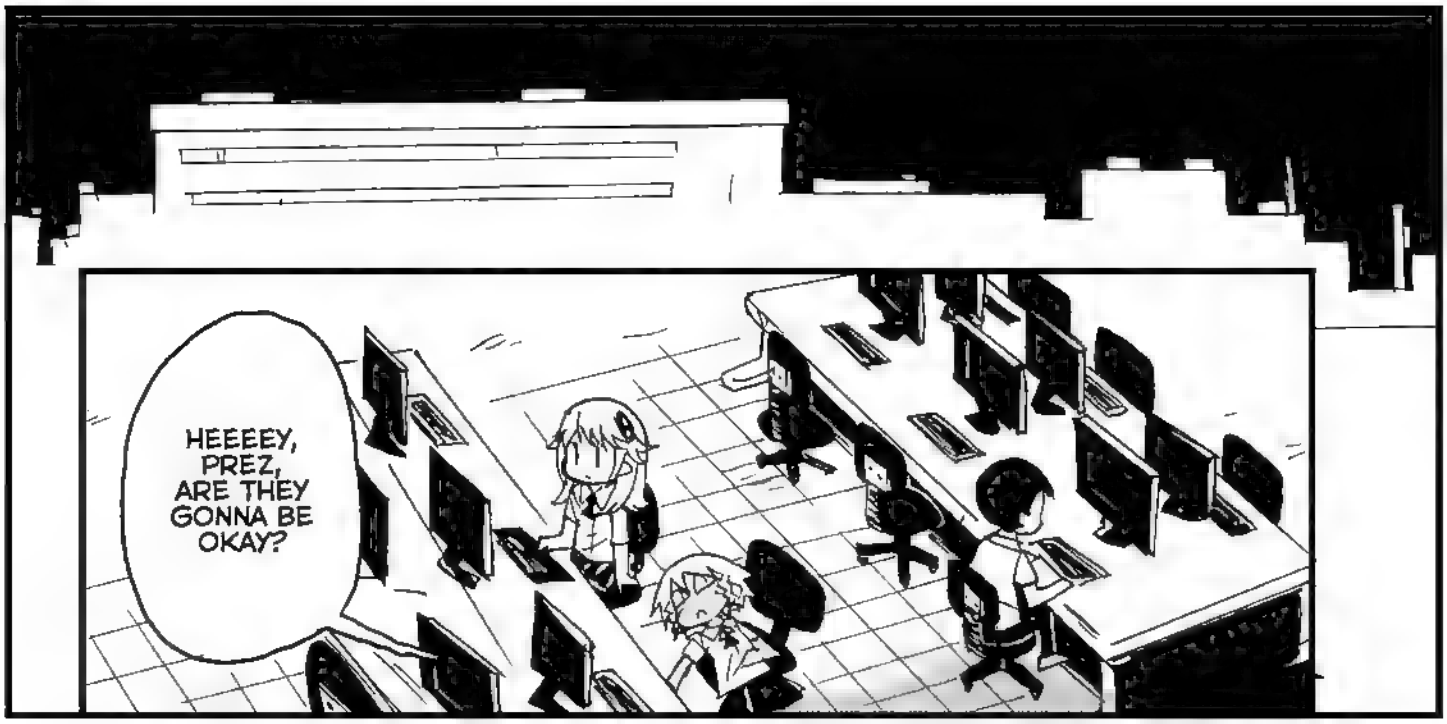
OF COURSE, I'LL HAVE YOU TAKE NOTES FROM IT TOO...

I DON'T WANT THIS TO BE ANY-THING LIKE ONE!
IT'LL BE LIKE A DATE...
OH, AND THERE'S AN ARCADE NEAR THE THEATER. WANNA STOP BY THERE TOO?
カタ
カタ

YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS...

ABOUT TIME YOU GET ALONG WITH EACH OTHER, RIGHT?
DON'T SAY THAT... YOU'VE BEEN WORKING TOGETHER ALL THE TIME LATELY.


...AS LONG AS I GET TO HAVE LUNCH TOO, SURE.
ALRIGHT.
I GU-ESS I'LL GO.

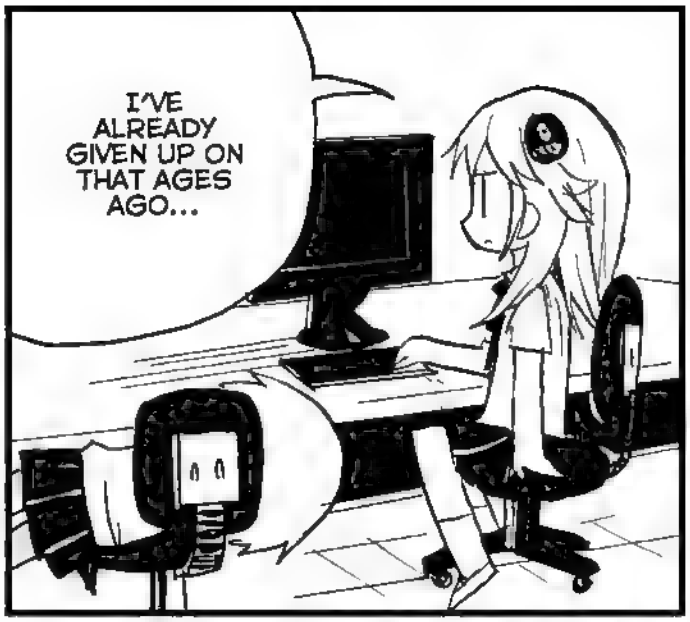

HEEEEY, PREZ, ARE THEY GONNA BE OKAY?

MM...

THEY'VE GOTTA KNOW BY NOW THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO FORCE THEM TO GET ALONG.

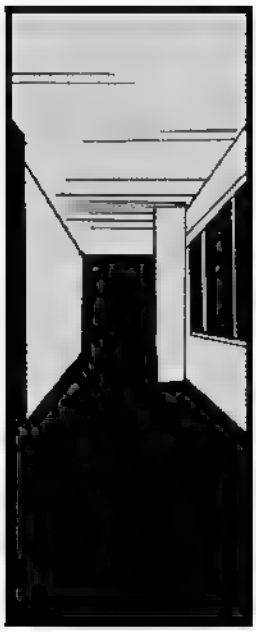
THEY'LL BE FINE... PROBABLY.

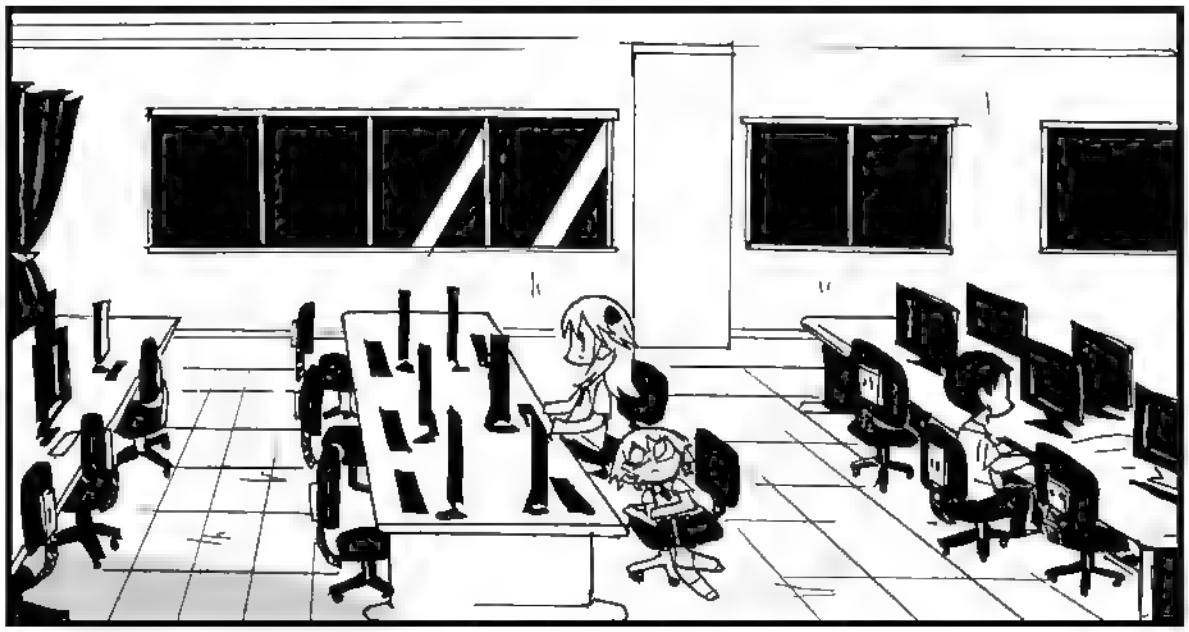
THEY MIGHT END UP HAVING A BIG FIGHT AND JUST GO HOME.

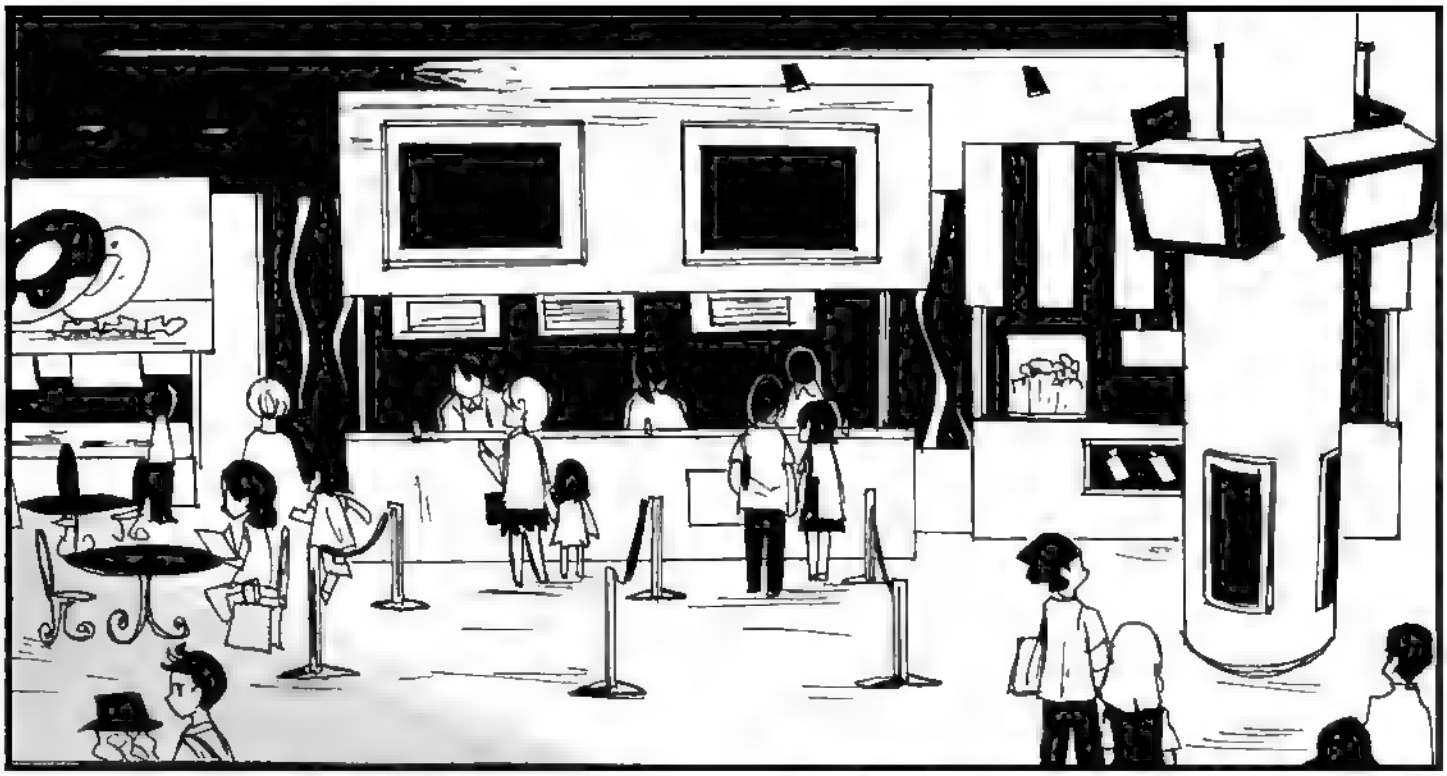

I'VE ALREADY GIVEN UP ON THAT AGES AGO...

GEEZ, PREZ. ARE YOU STILL TRYING TO MAKE A KILLING MACHINE?
UGH... THIS AGAIN?

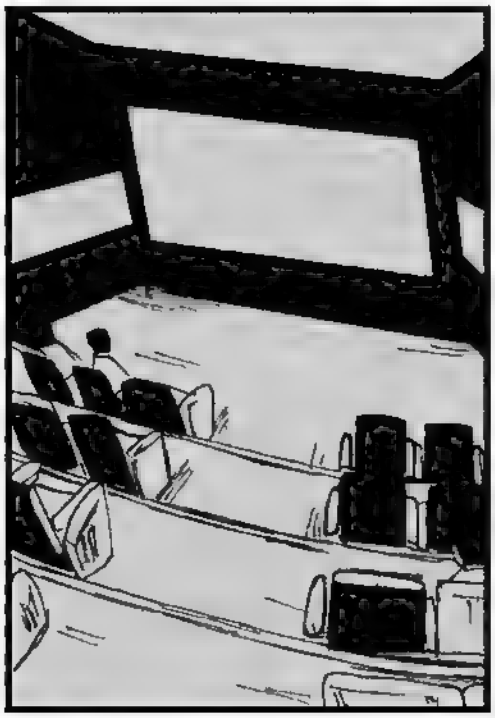
...I JUST DON'T WANT THEM TO END UP QUITTING THE CLUB, THAT'S ALL...





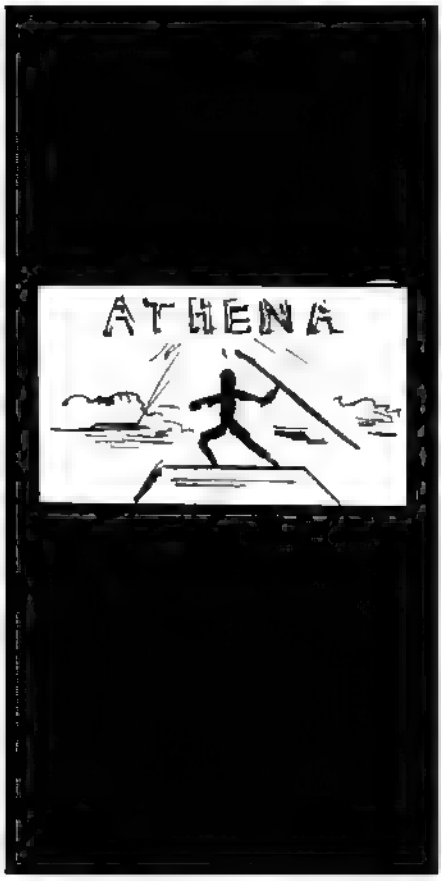


AH.
IT'S PRETTY CROWDED.
THERE'S PLENTY OF COU-PLES TOO.



DON'T BRING UP STUPID THINGS!
SO WHAT!?

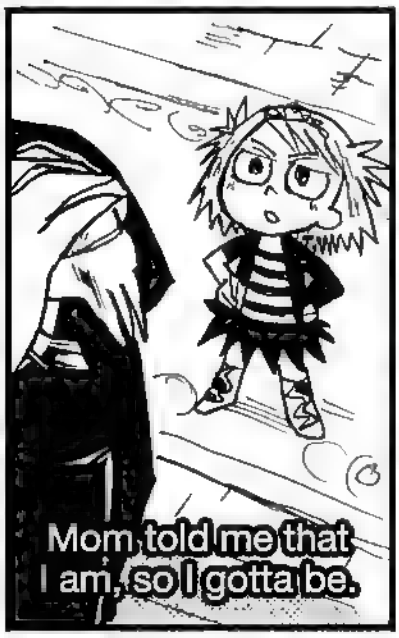
"HOW TO MAKE AN EVIL EMPIRE." THEY SLAPPED IT ONTO A CARTOON MOVIE FROM A DIFFERENT DISTRIBUTOR, APPARENTLY.
THEY PUT IN "PRINCESS" IN THE JAPANESE TITLE, BUT THE ORIGINAL TITLE IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT...
HUH... INTEREST-ING.


ATHENA

ABC

Mind if I join your team?

I'll take revenge on this world!
Awesome!

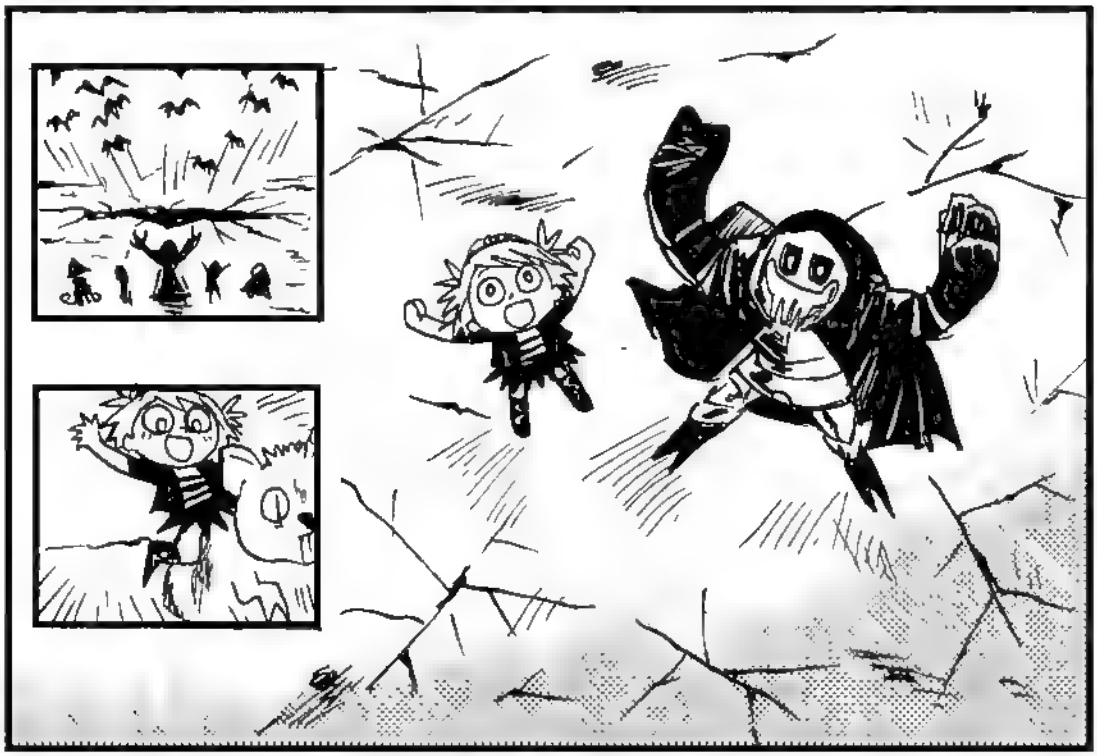

Mom told me that I am, so I gotta be.

What makes you think you're special?

Fine.
I'll turn you into one.

Villains are cooler.
They get beaten up over and over again, but they never give up.

I hate heroes.

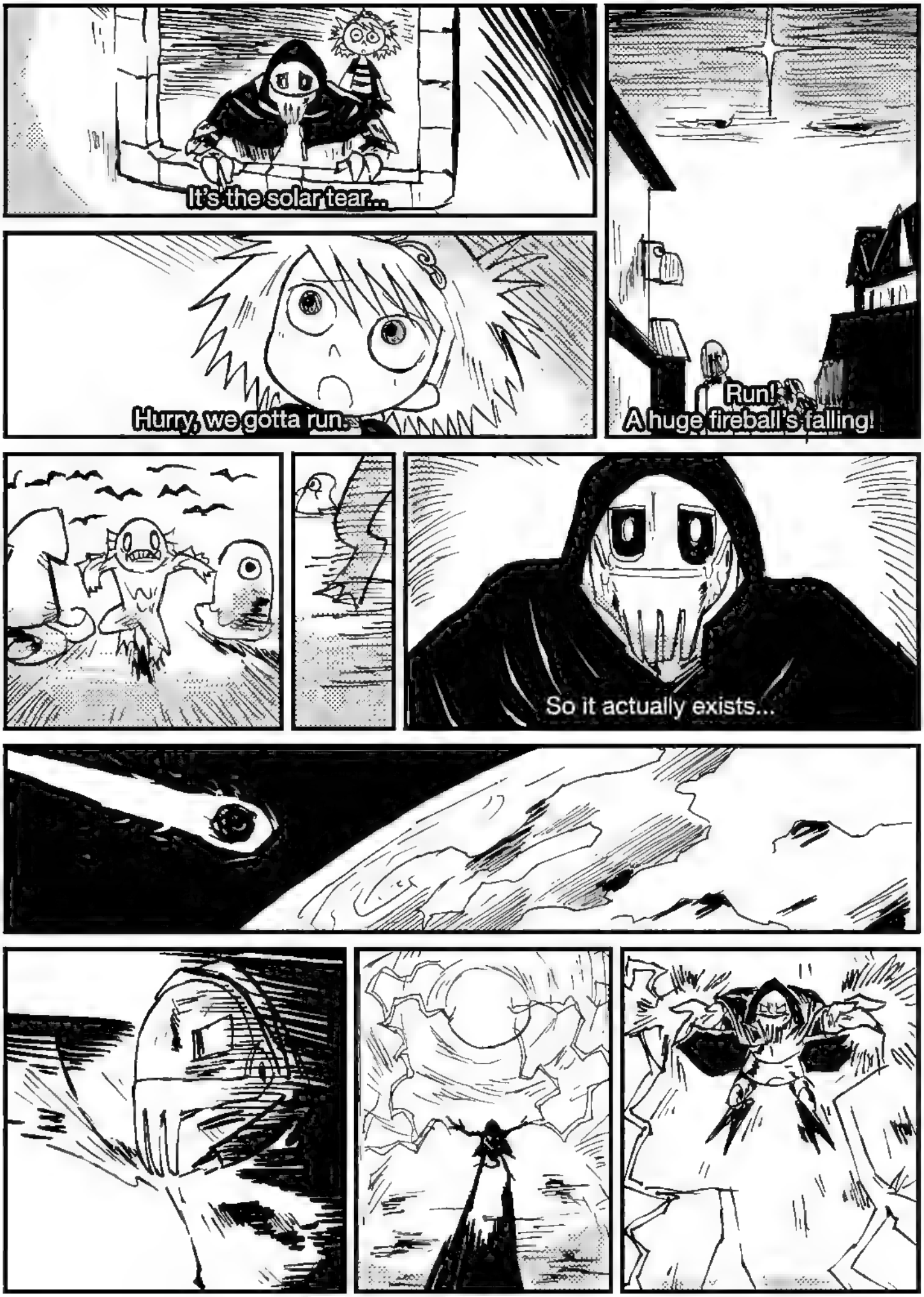


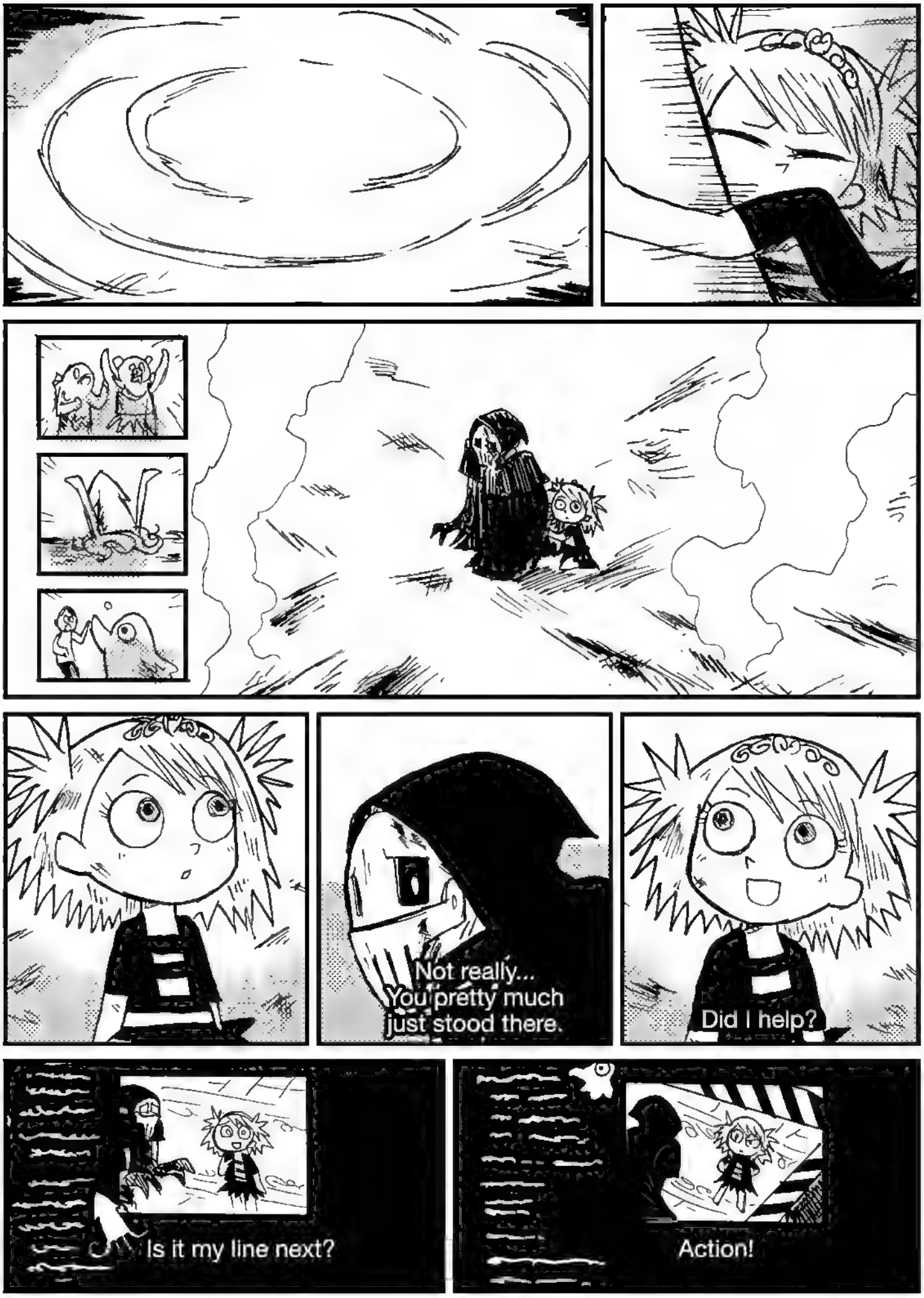
Awesome!

It was my dream to fight against it...

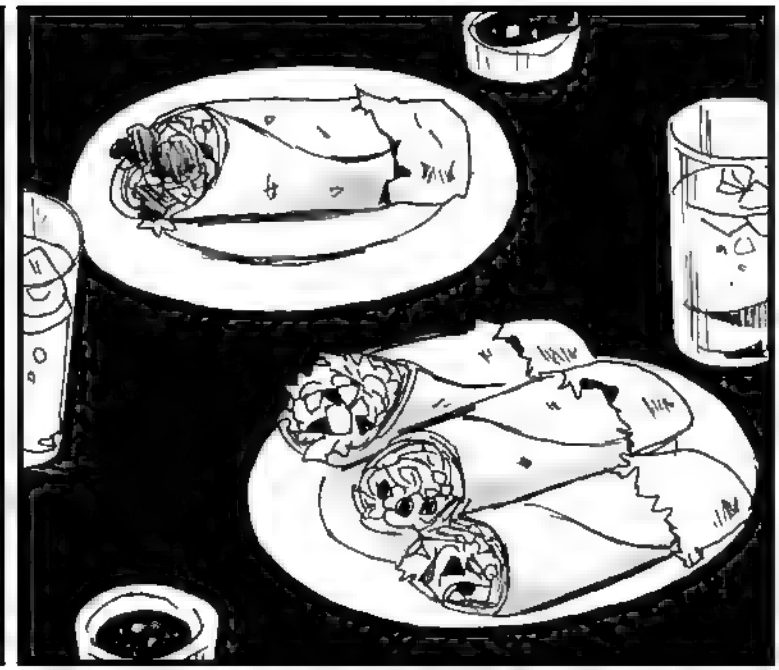
Is it real...?
People say it rains down from the sky to purge the world of evil when it's in danger.

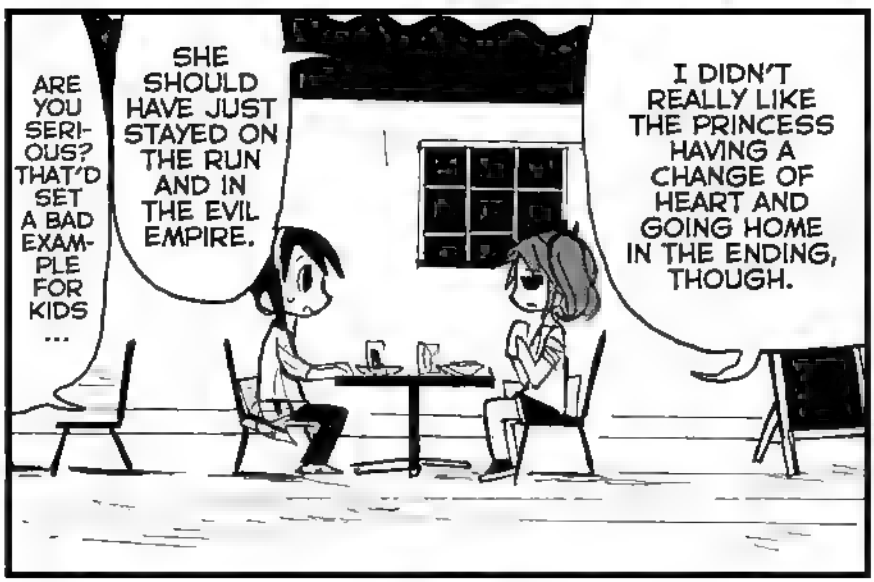
Have you ever heard of the "solar tear"?


It's the solar tear...
Hurry, we gotta run.
Run!
A huge fireball's falling!
So it actually exists...


Not really... You pretty much just stood there.
Did I help?
Is it my line next?
Action!

WELL, HOW WAS IT?
IT WAS OKAY.




ARE YOU SERIOUS? THAT'D SET A BAD EXAMPLE FOR KIDS ...
SHE SHOULD HAVE JUST STAYED ON THE RUN AND IN THE EVIL EMPIRE.
I DIDN'T REALLY LIKE THE PRINCESS HAVING A CHANGE OF HEART AND GOING HOME IN THE ENDING, THOUGH.

IT WAS PLAIN WHOLESOME...
THAT WAS GOOD, WASN'T IT?

YOU'RE TOO EXTREME...

BUT IT FELT LIKE SHE MADE A COMPROMISE WITH HER PRINCIPLES.
WELL, YEAH,

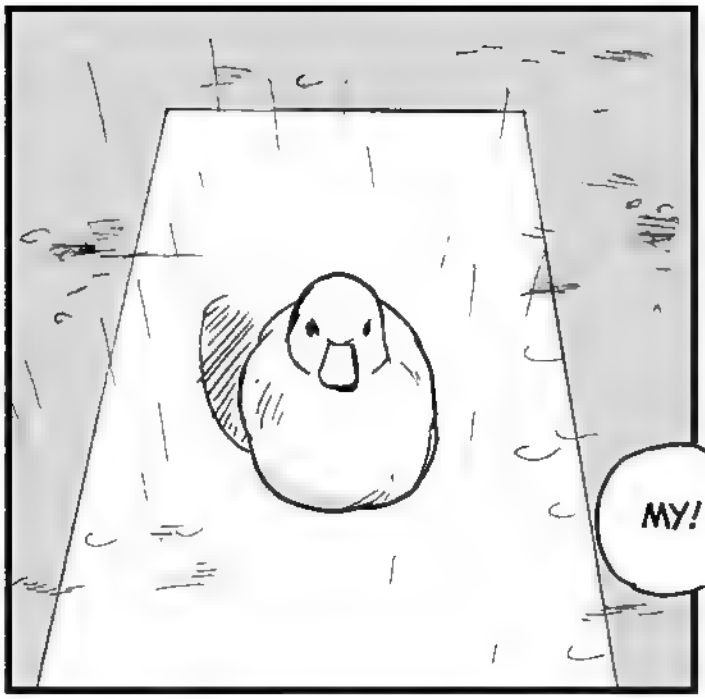
YOU'RE THE WORST.
YOU LIE AND YOU DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG WITH IT.
THERE YOU GO AGAIN...

IS BUILT ON PEOPLE MAKING SMALL COM-PRO-MISES WITH EACH OTHER?
DON'T YOU THINK THAT WORLD PEACE

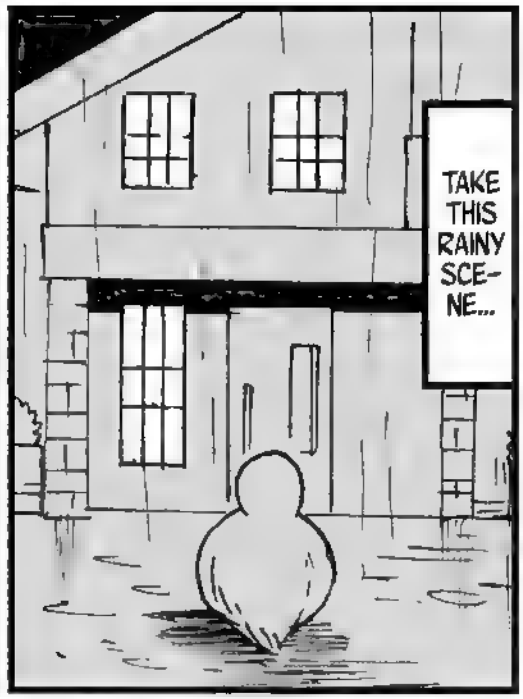
OF COURSE NOT. PEACE IS WAY MORE IMPORTANT.
DON'T YOU EVER THINK THAT DISHONESTY IS WHAT MAKES A MESS OUT OF THE WORLD?

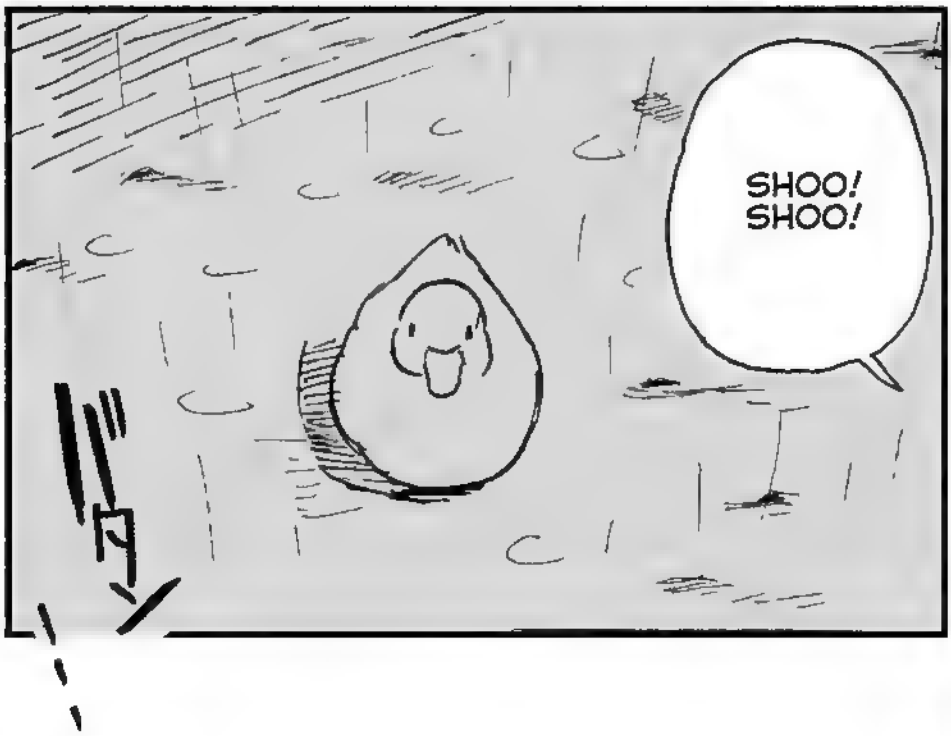
BUT TO PUT IT REALLY SIMPLY...
...THAT MIGHT SOUND CON-TRA-DIC-TORY,

...ALSO, YOU WANT WORLD PEACE, BUT YOU LIKE MONSTERS? WHAT GIVES?



MY!


TAKE THIS RAINY SCE-NE...


SHOO! SHOO!

GO AWAY!
WHAT A DIRTY BIRD.
YOU'RE STILL THE-RE?

THAT WAS JUST AN EXAMPLE!
FORGET IT!
WAAAH! NO! IT'S TOO SAD!

MY!

カチャ

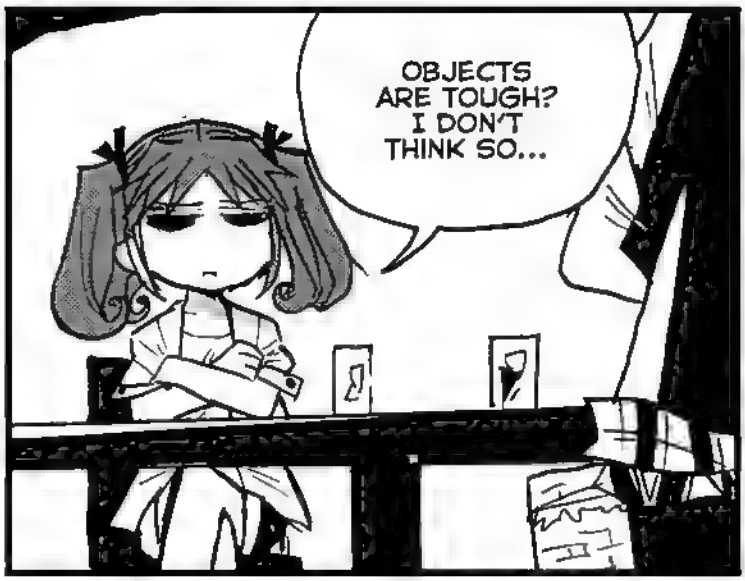
ON THE OTHER HAND...

SHOO! SHOO!

YOU'RE STILL THERE?
WHAT A DIRTY DEMON LORD.
GO AWAY!

THAT'S WHY I LIKE MONSTERS.
HE MIGHT BE STRONG AND BAD, BUT DOESN'T HE DESERVE SYMPATHY TOO?
SEE? YOU DON'T FEEL BAD FOR THE DEMON LORD AT ALL IF HE'S THE ONE IN THE RAIN.

IN THAT SENSE, OBJECTS HAVE NO EQUAL!
OF COURSE, I LOVE OBJECTS THE MOST.

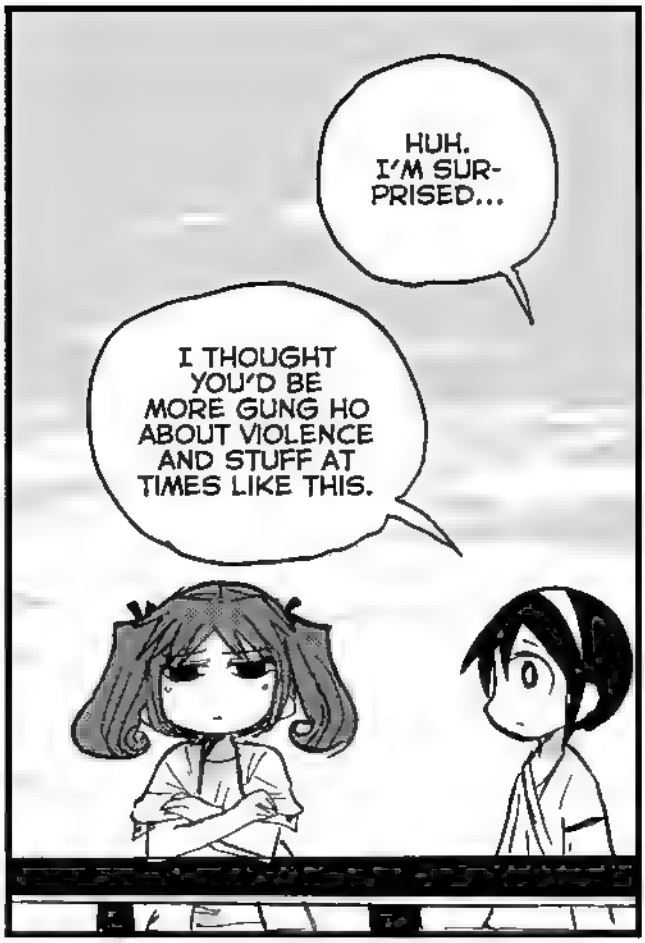

OBJECTS ARE TOUGH? I DON'T THINK SO...

THEY'RE TOUGH AND LONG-LASTING, BUT THEY'RE GENTLE AND WILL ACCEPT ANYONE.
THEY CONTINUE TO EXIST EVEN IF I DIE...

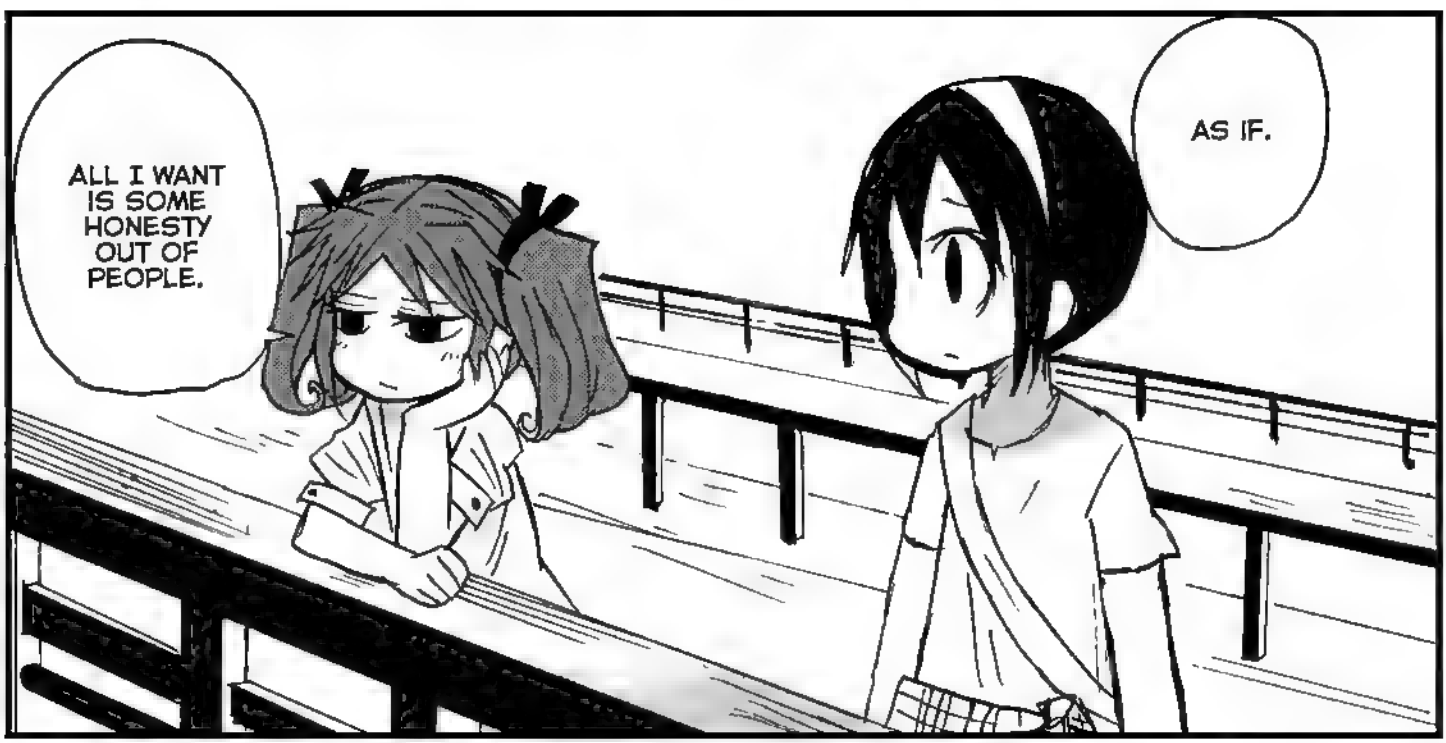
WE'VE HAD LUNCH TOO. TIME TO GO HOME.
WE'RE DONE FOR TODAY.
WELL, WHAT-EVER...

...WE'VE NEVER REALLY HAD A DECENT DISCUSSION GOING, THOUGH.

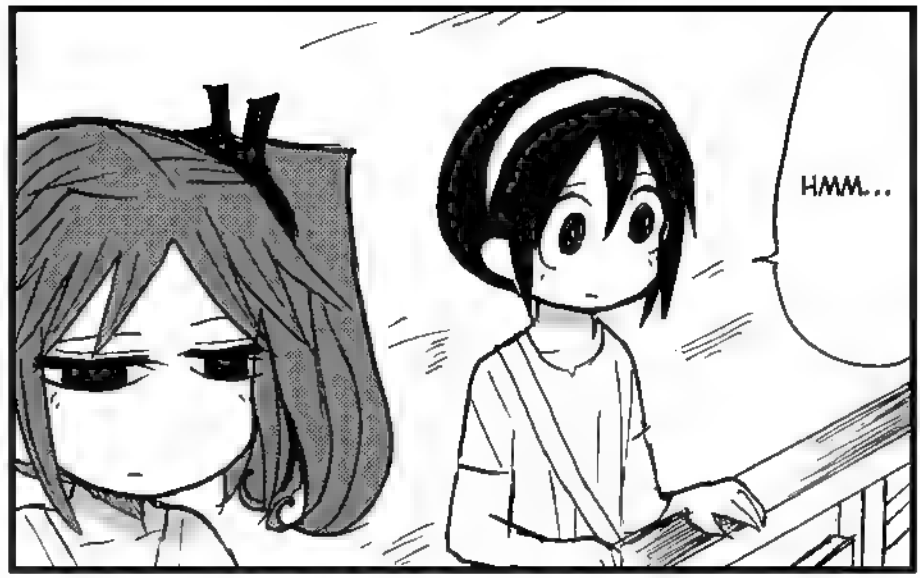
BUT SEEMS LIKE THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN EVER SEE EYE TO EYE.
I FEEL BAD FOR PREZ,


HUH. I'M SURPRISED...
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE MORE GUNG HO ABOUT VIOLENCE AND STUFF AT TIMES LIKE THIS.

IF WORDS CAN'T HELP US, THOUGH, THEN VIOLENCE WOULDN'T EITHER.


ALL I WANT IS SOME HONESTY OUT OF PEOPLE.
AS IF.

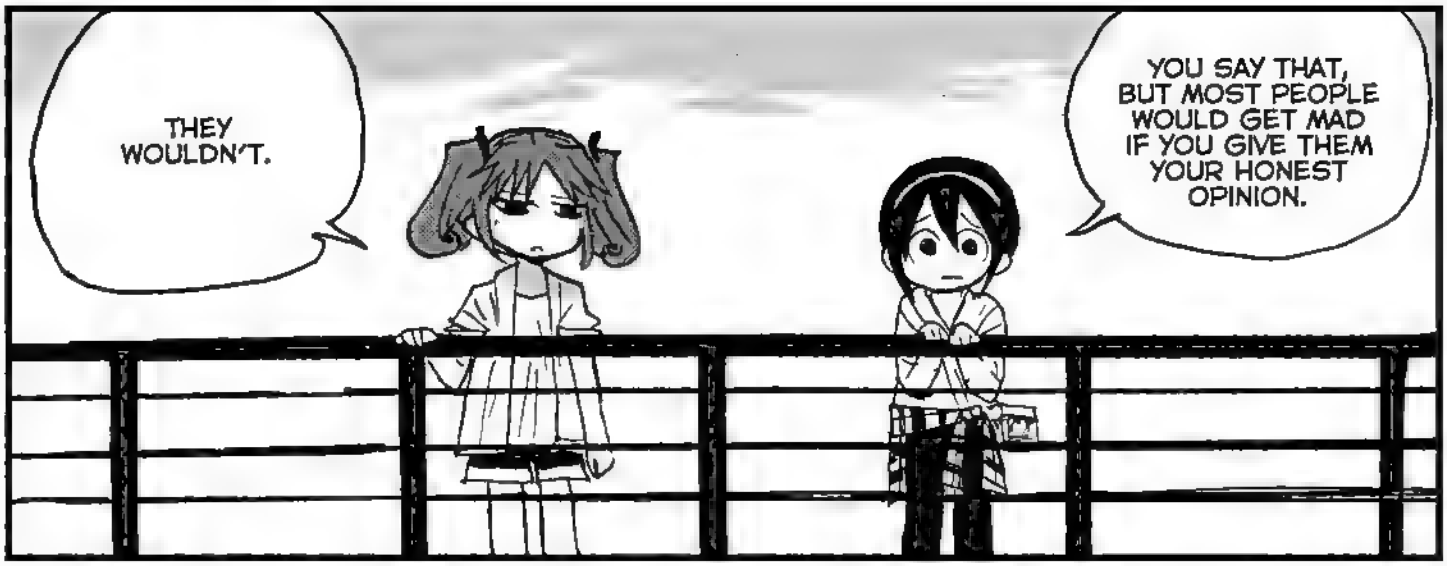
YOU...
IF I MAY, THOUGH,


HMM...

NO WAY IT WOULD TURN OUT WELL FOR WEAK PEOPLE IF ALL THEY SAY IS WHAT THEY HONESTLY THINK.
THEY CAN'T AFFORD TO BE HONEST WHEN THEY MIGHT GET BEATEN UP OVER IT.

YOU CAN ONLY SAY THAT BECAUSE YOU PACK A GOOD PUNCH.

THEN YOU'LL BE A PUNCHING BAG FOR YOUR ENTIRE LIFE.
IF YOU CAN'T SAY WHAT YOU TRULY THINK BECAUSE YOU'RE AFRAID OF GETTING HIT,


THEY WOULDN'T.
YOU SAY THAT, BUT MOST PEOPLE WOULD GET MAD IF YOU GIVE THEM YOUR HONEST OPINION.

I WOULDN'T.
EVEN YOU WOULD.

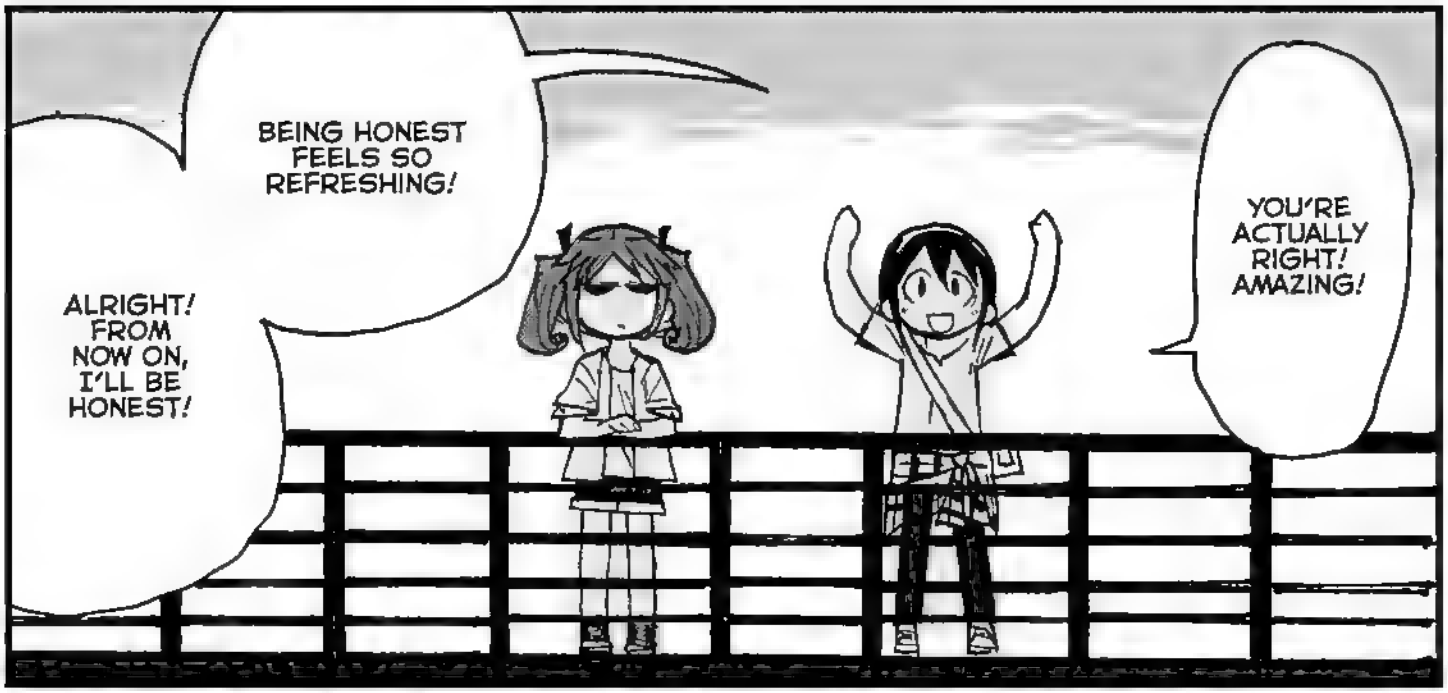
REALLY.
...REALLY?

I TOTALLY WOULDN'T.
YOU TOTALLY WOULD.

I'M NOT MAD.
I MEAN, THAT'S TRUE.

TO BE HONEST, I HATE YOU...
YOU'RE VIOLENT. THE ABSOLUTE WORST.

PRETTY SURE THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE SAY BEHIND ME ANYWAY.
I'D RATHER IT BEING TOLD STRAIGHT TO MY FACE LIKE THIS.


YOU'RE ACTUALLY RIGHT! AMAZING!
BEING HONEST FEELS SO REFRESHING!
ALRIGHT! FROM NOW ON, I'LL BE HONEST!

OBJECTS ARE ALL I LOVE!
I HATE PEOPLE!

I'LL TURN MYSELF INTO ONE...!
I'LL BE AN OBJECT!

JUNKO IS ALL I NEED...!

RIGHT!

FINALLY, THE TRUTH.

IT WAS BECAUSE I COULD SOMEHOW FEEL
THAT YOU WERE ALWAYS KEEPING UP A LIE...

I COULDN'T LIKE YOU.
YOU WORK HARD, YOU WORK SERIOUSLY, BUT I JUST COULDN'T...

UP UNTIL NOW, I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT YOUR WAY OF THINKING IS IDIOTIC... LIKE HELL I WOULD JUST BLURT IT OUT!
CORRECT... I ALWAYS WAS.

IS JUNKO-CHAN!
THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN TRULY UNDERSTAND ME...

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, YOU'RE SUFFERING TOO...

I PITY YOU...

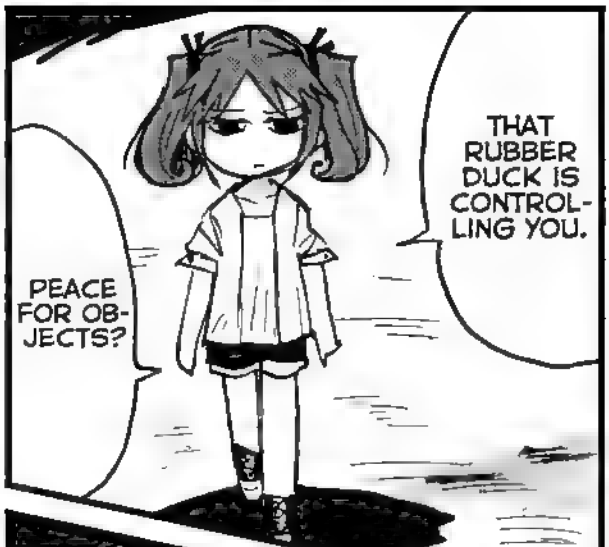
YOU'RE POSSESSED BY LIFELESS THINGS...

I WANTED A PEACEFUL WORLD,

BECAUSE THEN THEY WOULD BE KEPT SAFE.

THERE WOULD IMMEDIATELY BE PEACE.

IF EVERYONE TAKES GOOD CARE OF THEM,

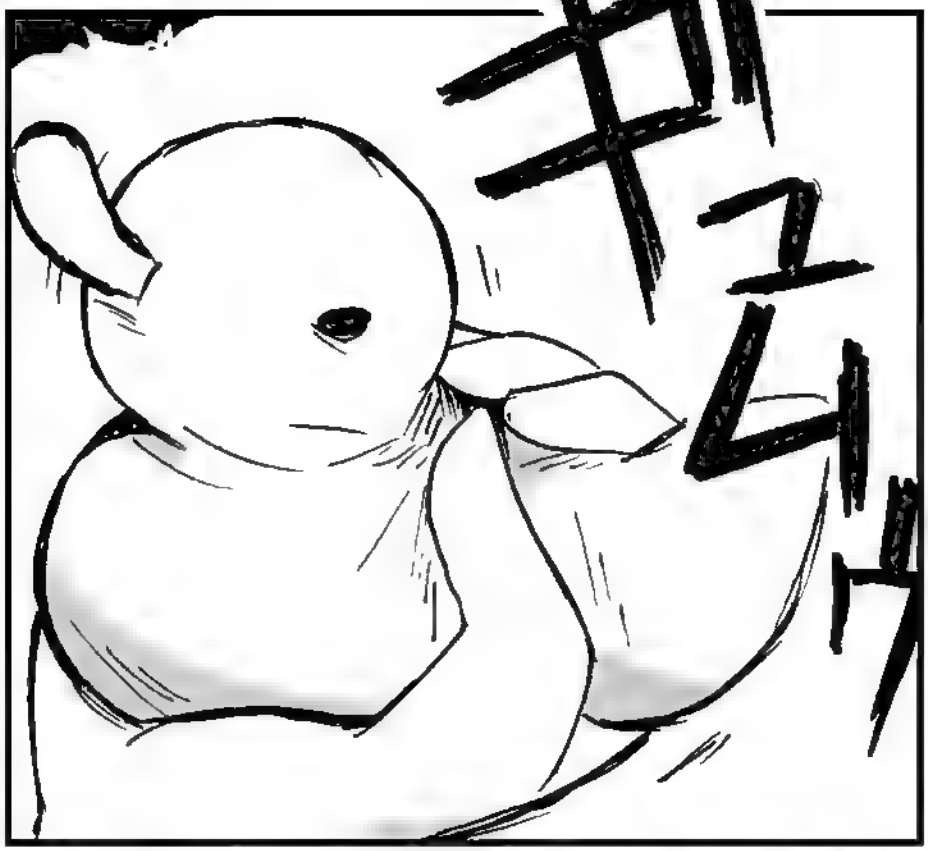

THAT RUBBER DUCK IS CONTROLLING YOU.
PEACE FOR OBJECTS?

DO YOU REALLY WANT THAT?

ズン

MORISHITA-CHAN... STOP...
HII... HII...

OBJECTS ARE ETERNAL? YOU'RE WRONG...
I KNOW THAT VERY WELL...
THEY'RE FRAGILE!
AAAAAAAA
JUNK


ギュムッ

I HAVE OVERSTEPPED MY BOUNDS...
PLEASE FORGIVE ME, MORISHITA-SAMA...
STOP!

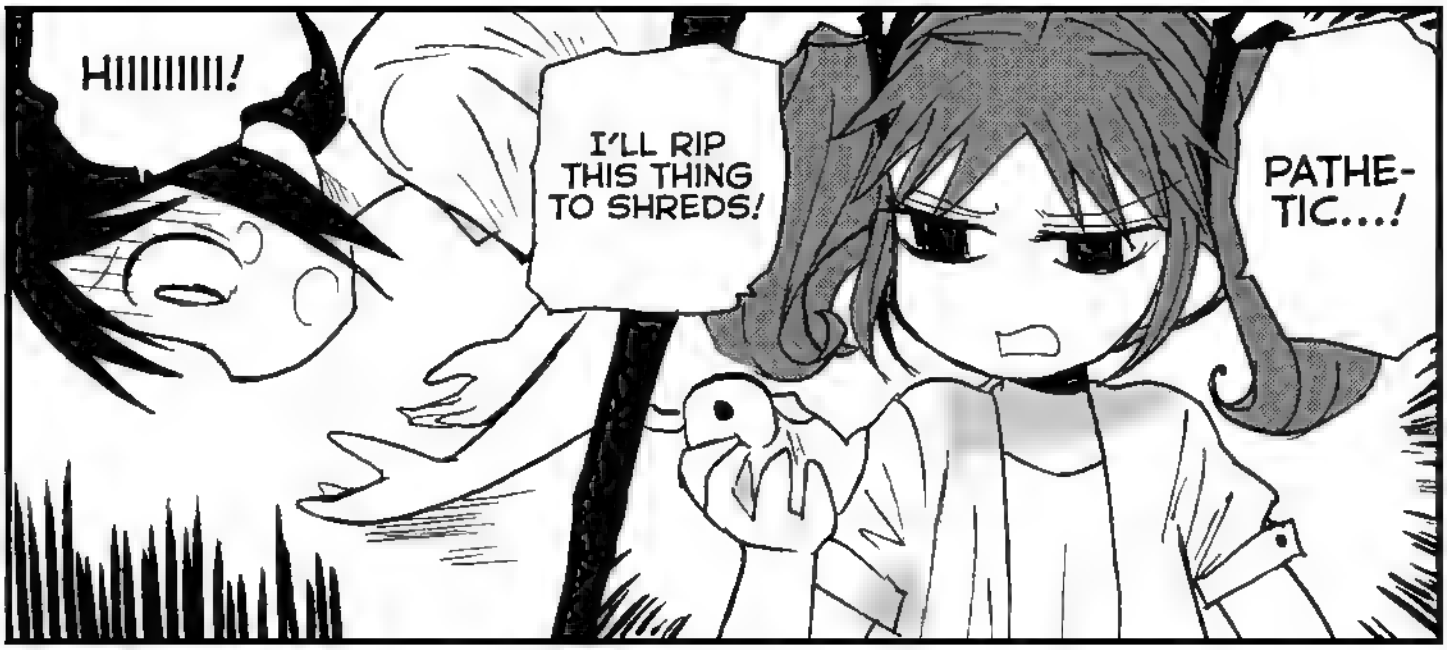
PLEASE, GIVE HER BACK... I'LL DO ANYTHING...

YOU'RE BACK TO BEING A LIAR AGAIN...

STOP!

I'LL EVEN LICK YOUR SHOES...

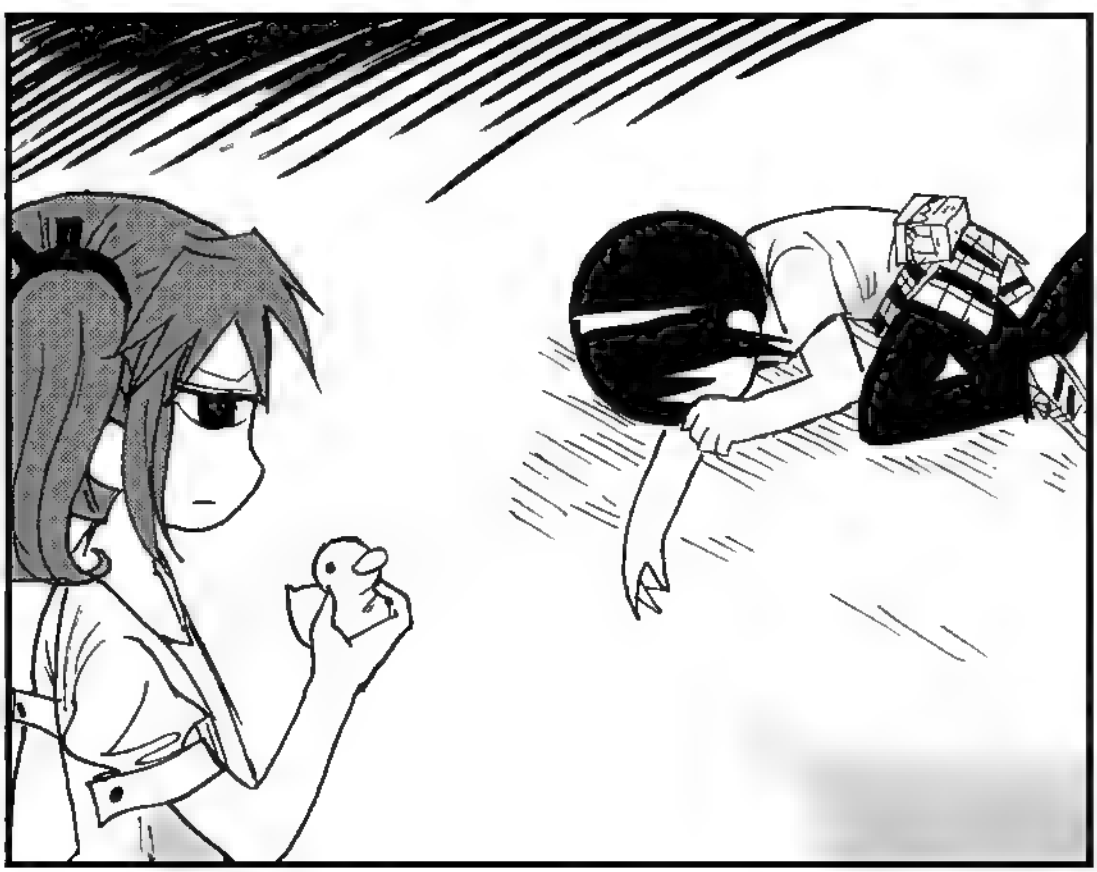
DON'T KILL HER, KILL ME INSTEAD...!
PLEASE, JUST KILL ME...!


HIIIIIIIIII!
I'LL RIP THIS THING TO SHREDS!
PATHE-TIC...!

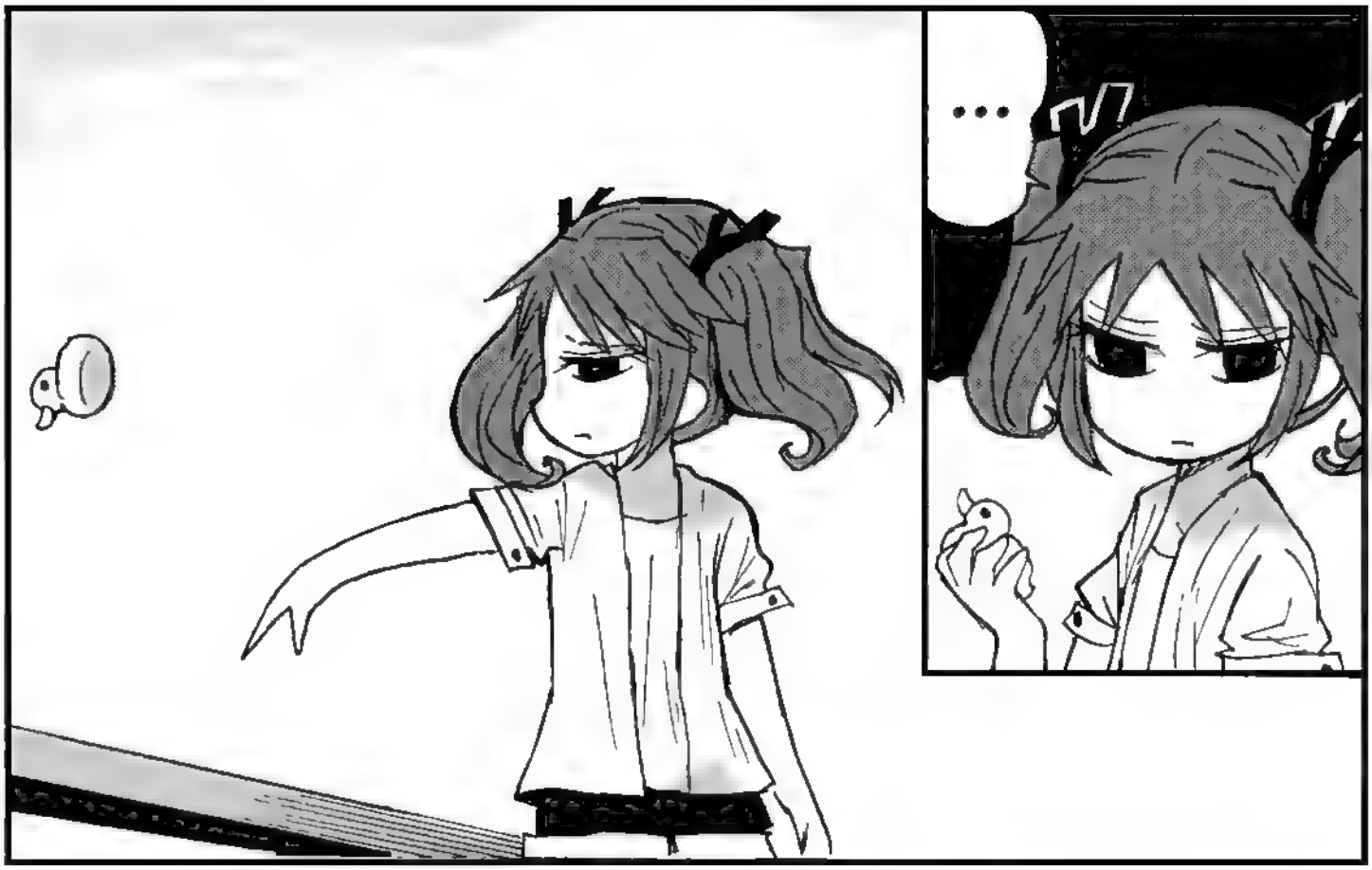
YOU'D EVEN GROVEL WITHOUT A SHRED OF SIN-CERITY...
YOU'RE PATHETIC!

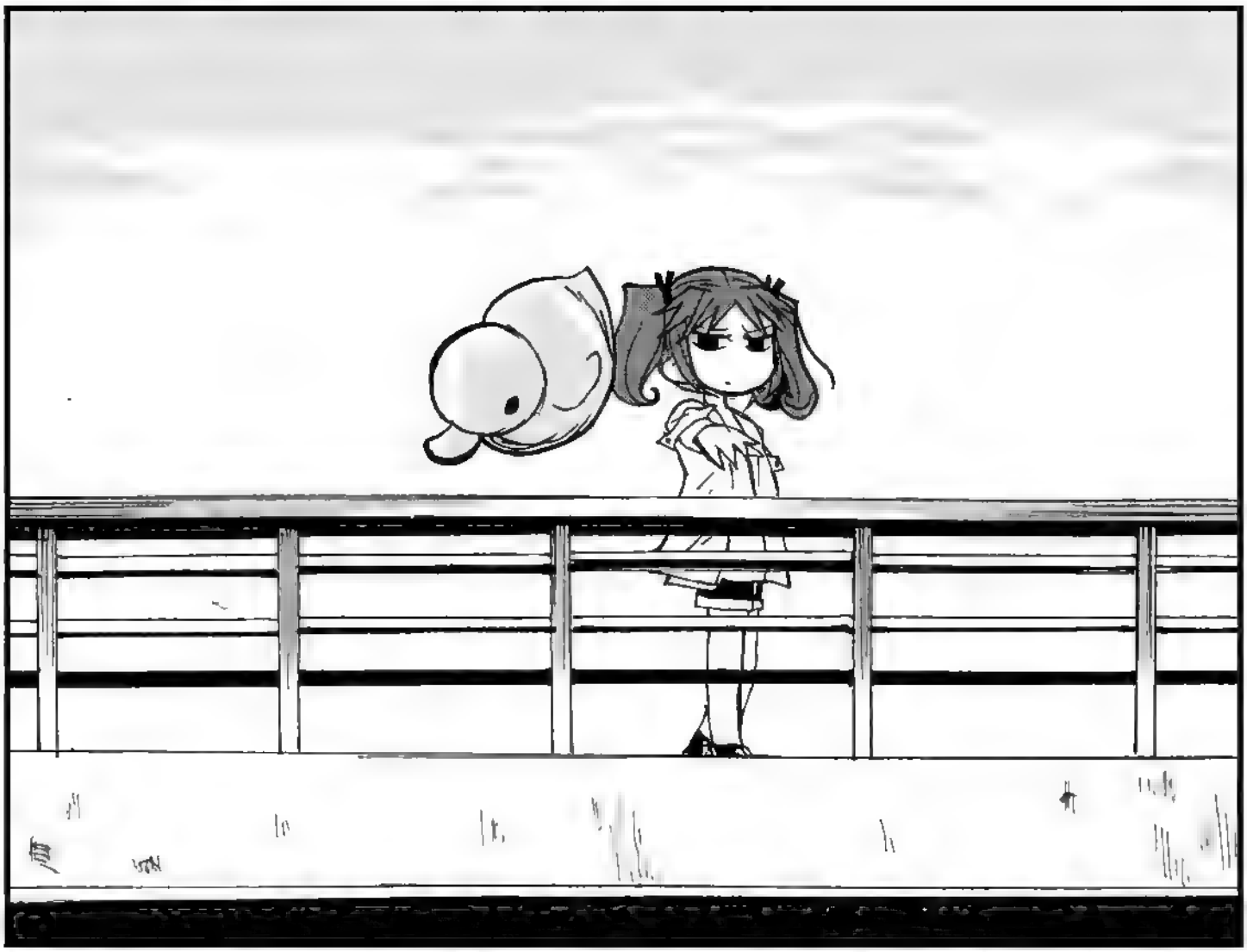
I WOULD EVEN SUPPORT YOU.
IF ONLY YOU WERE ACTUALLY IN LOVE WITH THE PRESI-DENT...

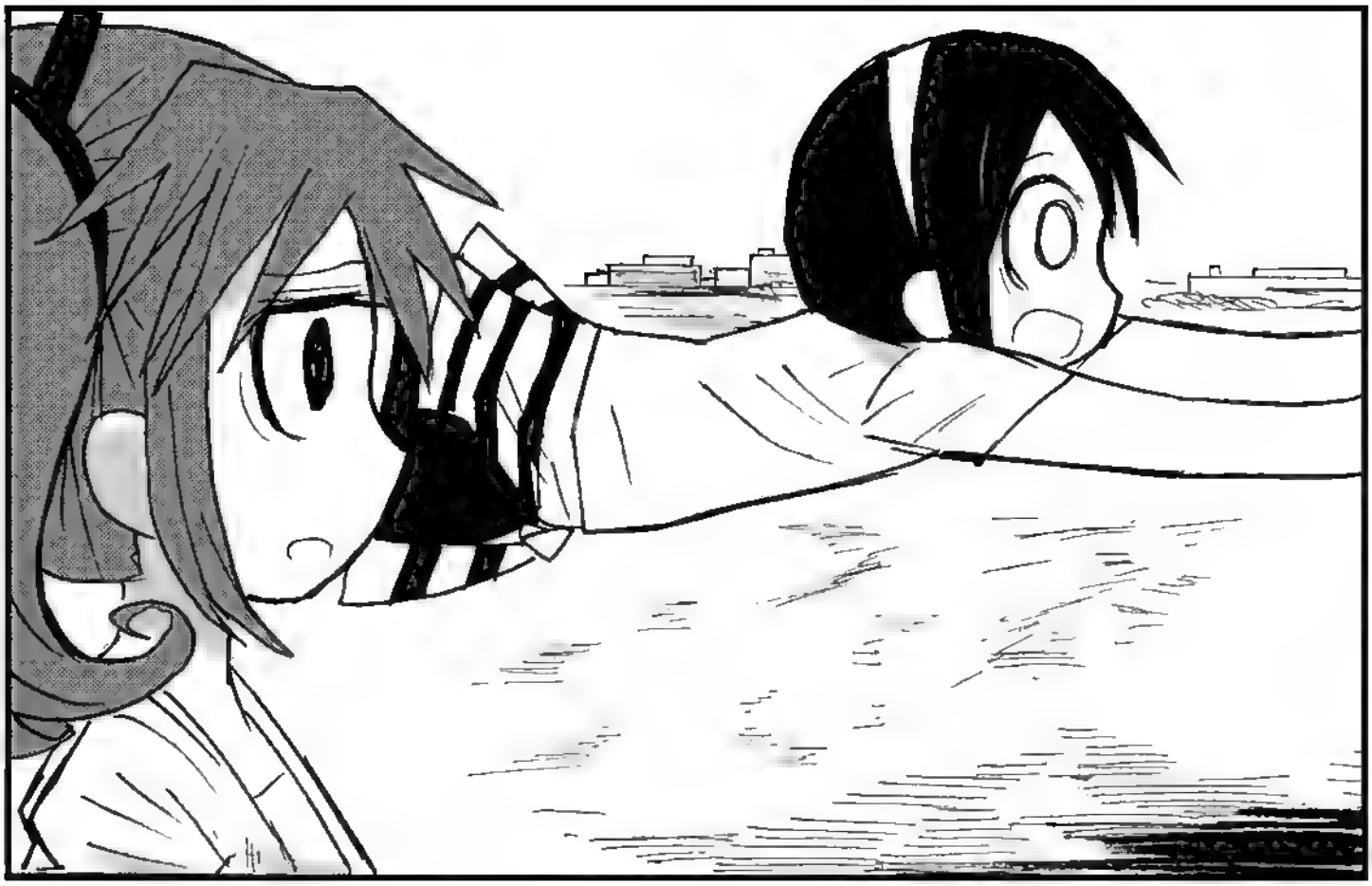
YOU'D DO ANYTHING TO DECEIVE OTHERS!



I'LL SHOW YOU THAT NOT EVEN OBJECTS LAST FOREVER!
TAKE A GOOD LOOK...

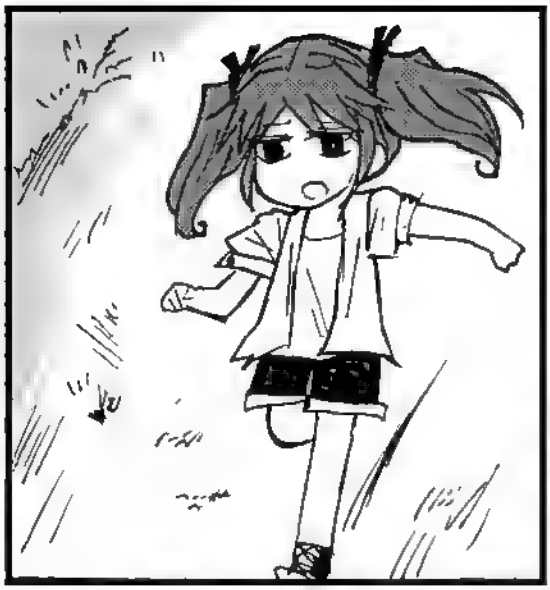


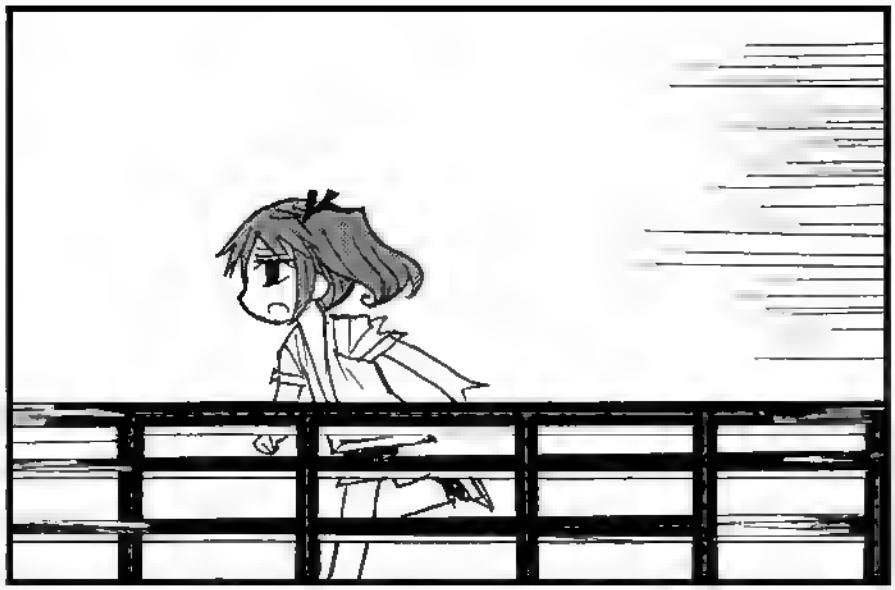


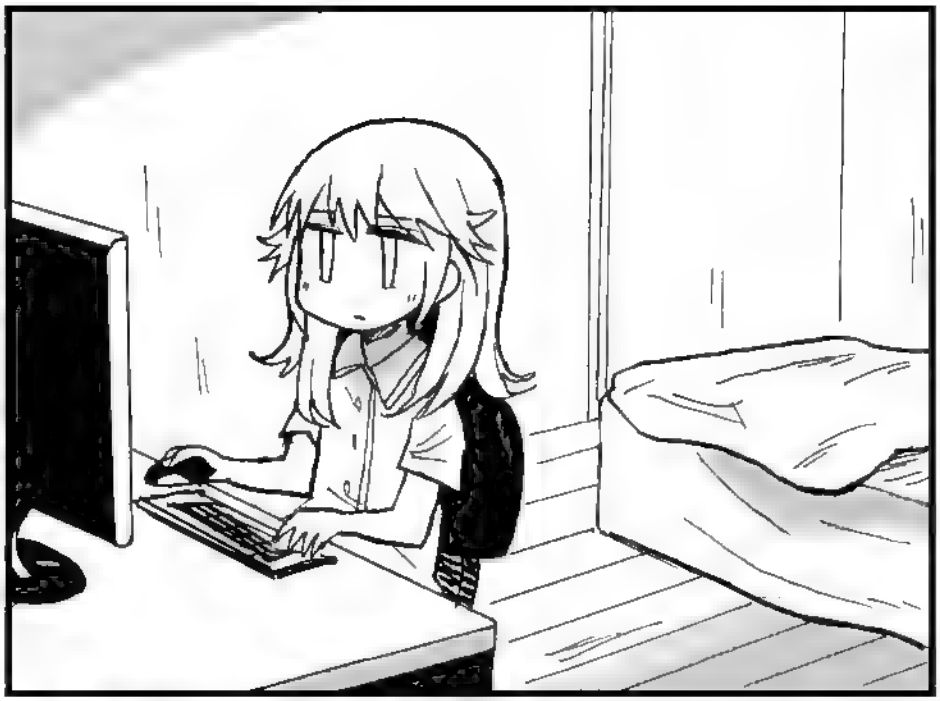


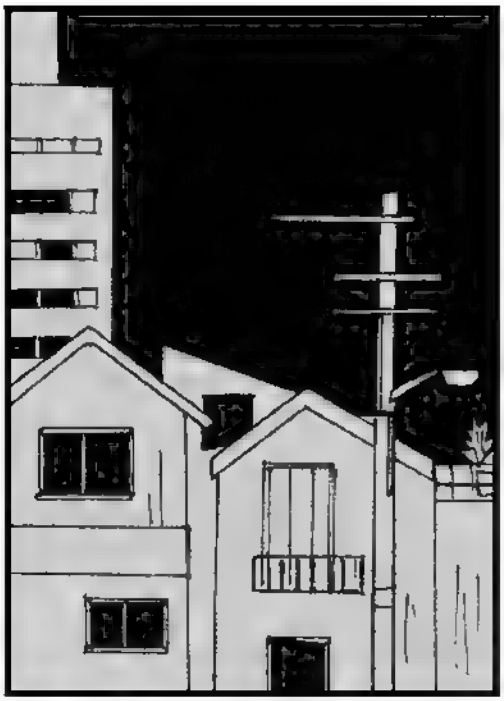
ザッパーン

I'LL SAVE... HACK!
JUNKO... WAIT FOR ME.
I'LL NEVER LET GO OF YOU AGAIN...
WE'LL BE TOGETHER FOREVER...
GET OUT OF THE WATER!
IDIOT!

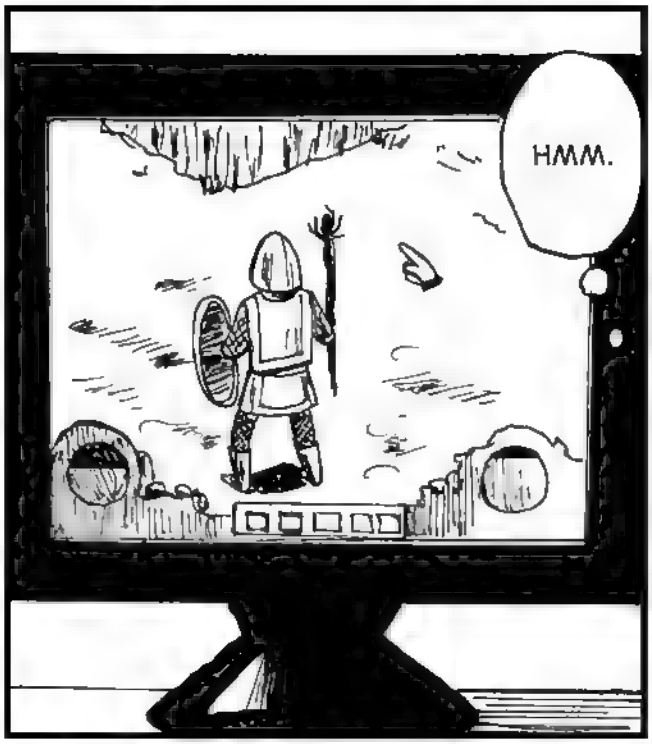




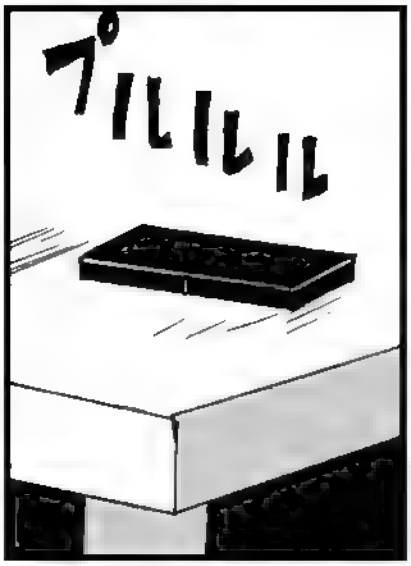


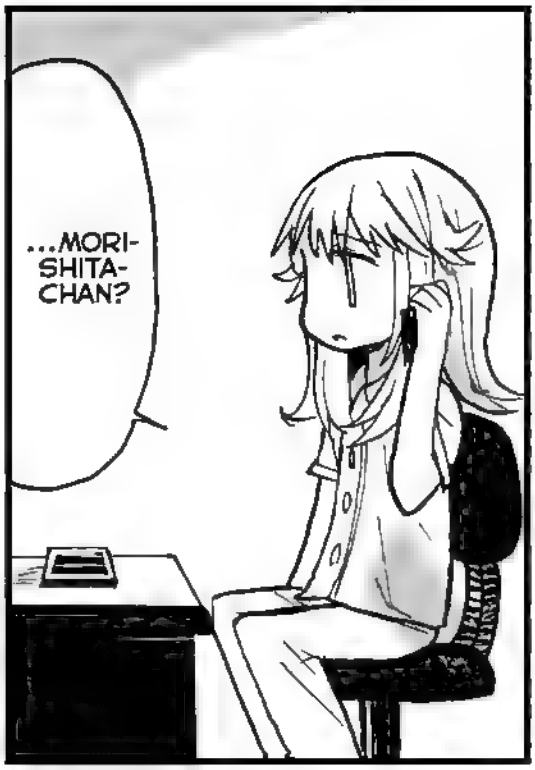


THIS IS GETTING HARDER WITH JUST INT, HUH?
GUESS I CAN'T JUST FOCUS ON ONE STAT IN THIS GAME...


HMM.

HM? WHO IS IT?
プルルル

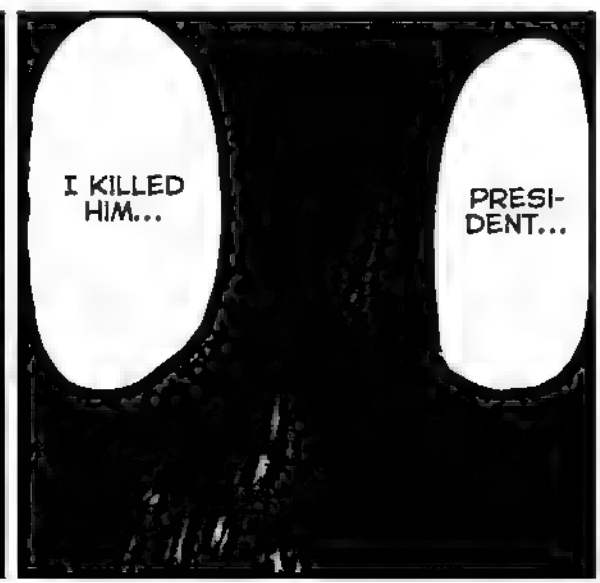

プルルル


...MORI-SHITA-CHAN?

AH, MORISHITA-CHAN. WHAT IS IT?
PRESIDENT...

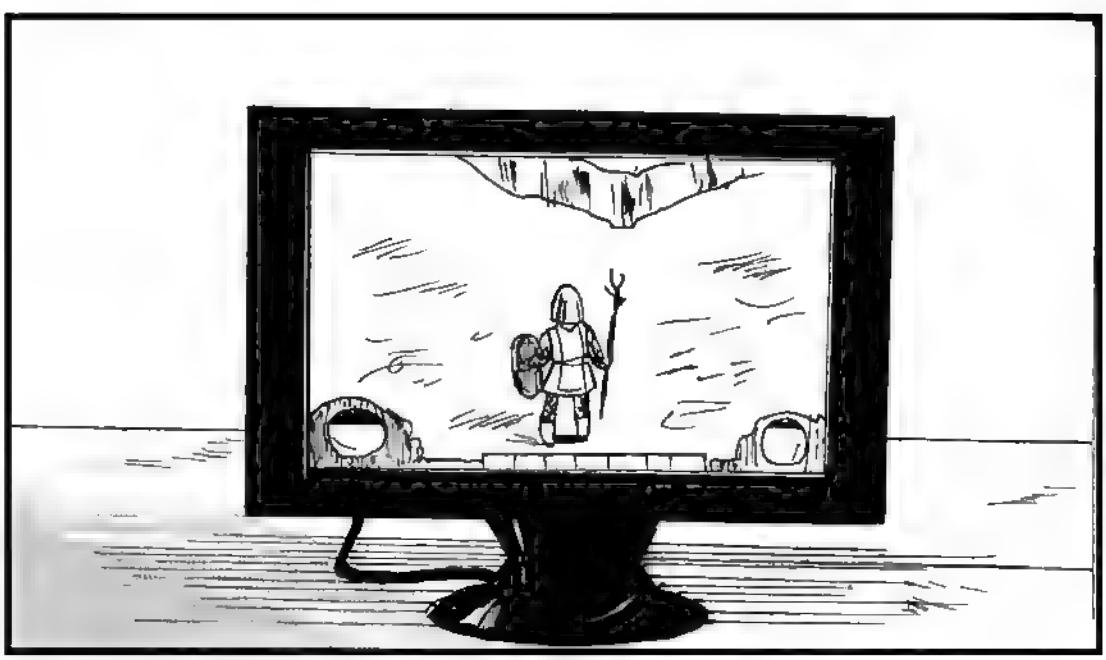
SUWA-KUN DROWNED...
PRESI-DENT...

BUT I DON'T KNOW THE NUMBER...
I HAVE TO CALL HIS FAMILY...


I KILLED HIM...
PRESI-DENT...

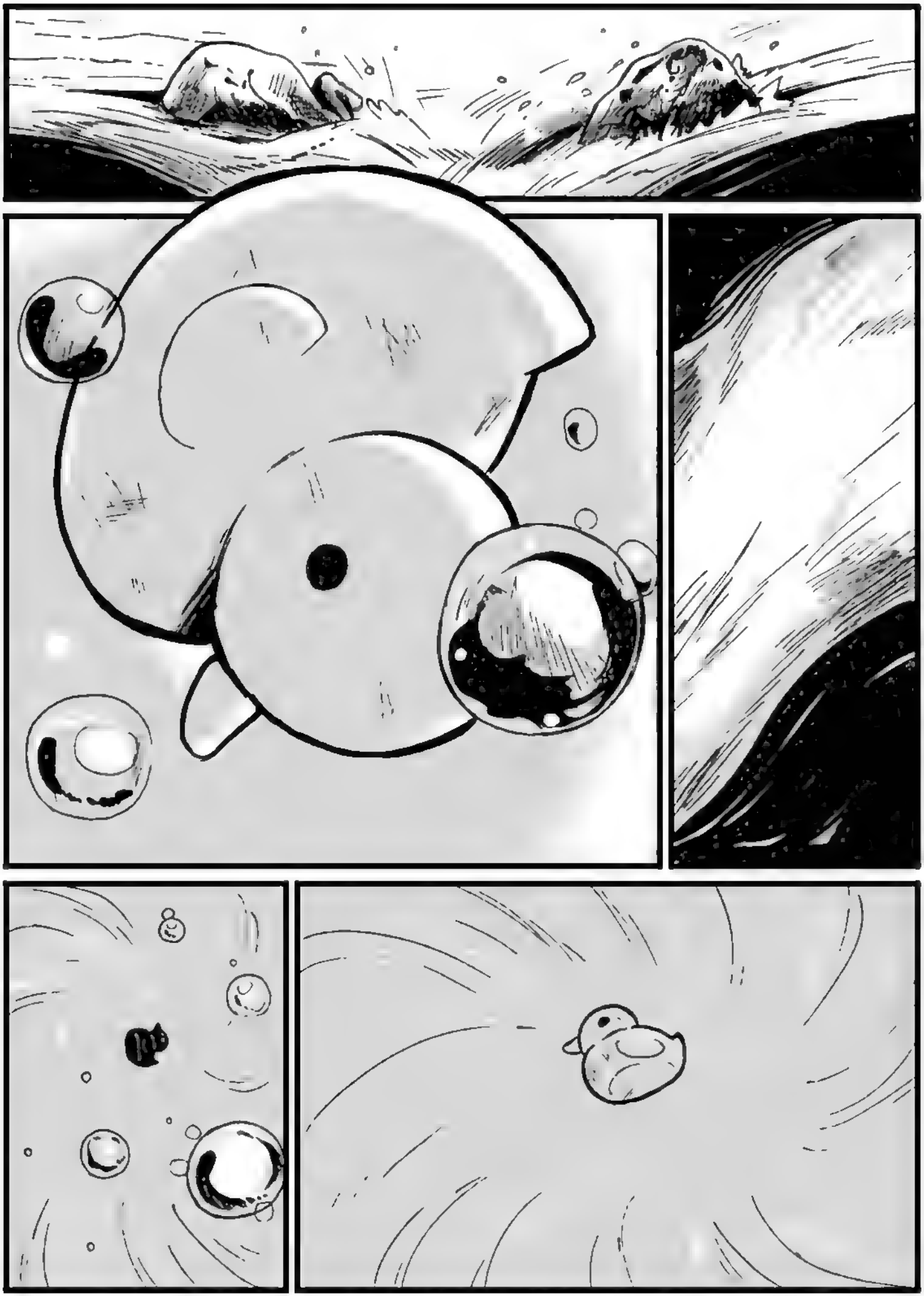
PRESI-
DENT...

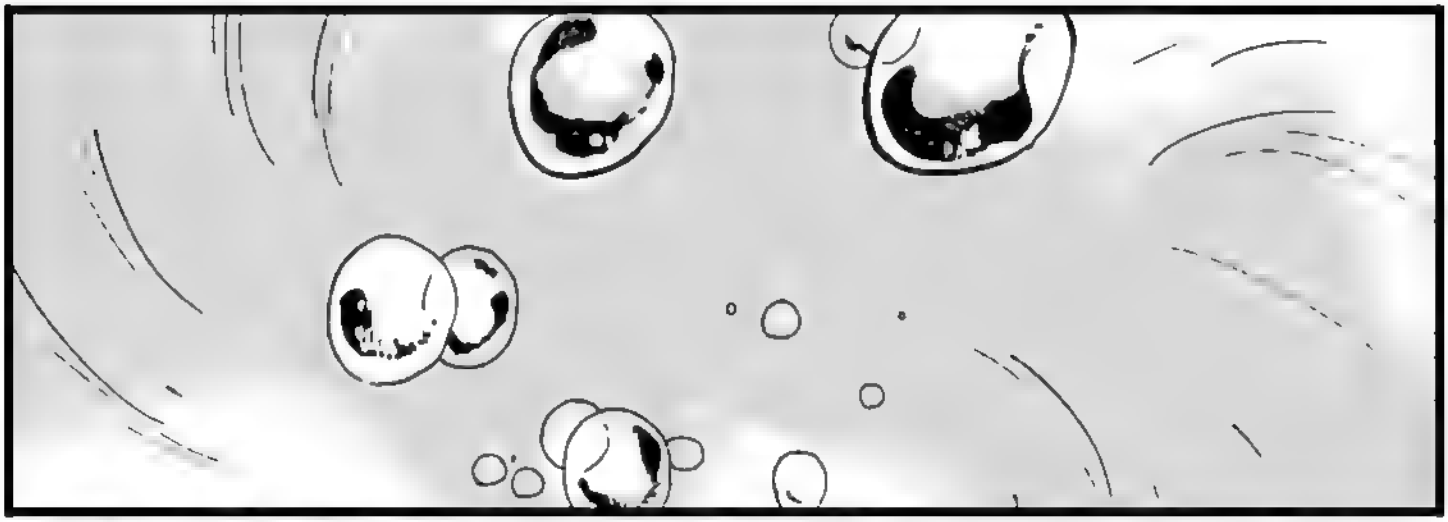
I...



GAME CLUB 10

UNDERWATER

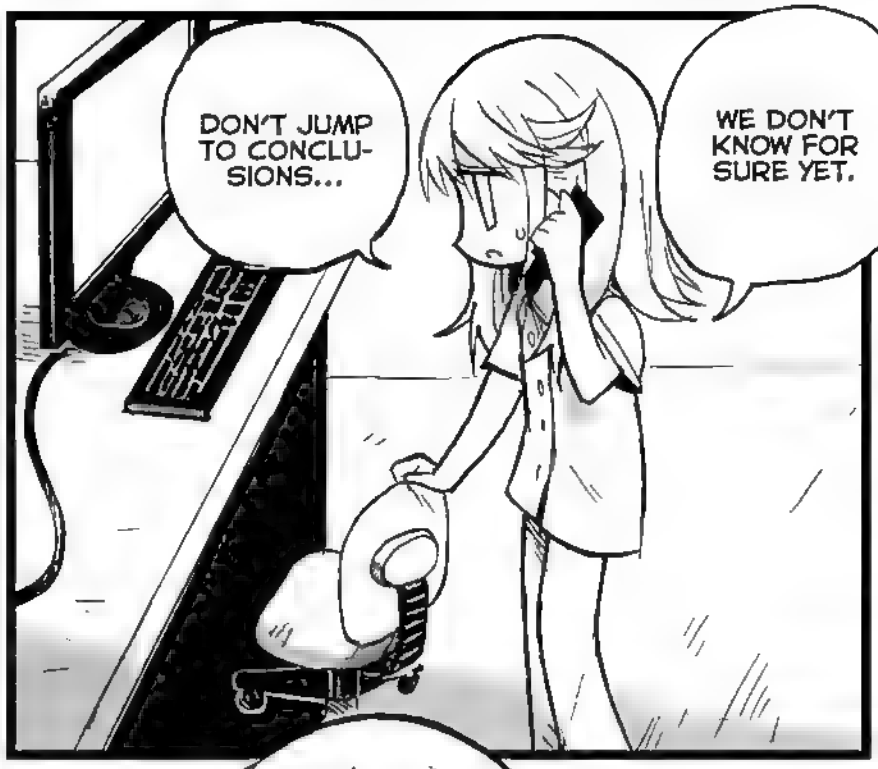




GAME CLUB 10
UNDERWATER

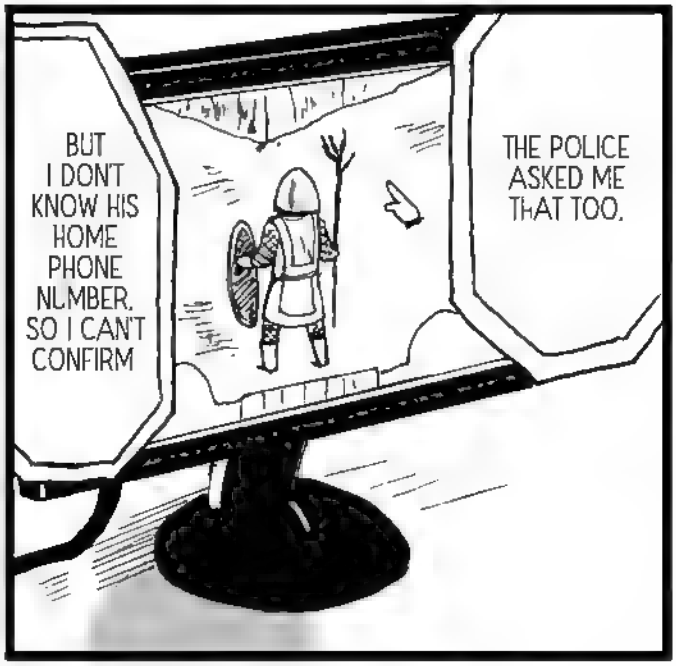
W-WAIT...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...? EXPLAIN IT TO ME...
I HAD A FIGHT WITH SUWA-KUN... AND I THREW HIS RUBBER DUCK INTO THE RIVER.
HE THEN JUMPED INTO THE WATER AFTER IT...
HOLD ON. HOLD ON.
HOW DO YOU KNOW HE'S DEAD?
I KILLED HIM...
HE NEVER CAME BACK UP.
WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR HIM... BUT HE'S NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.

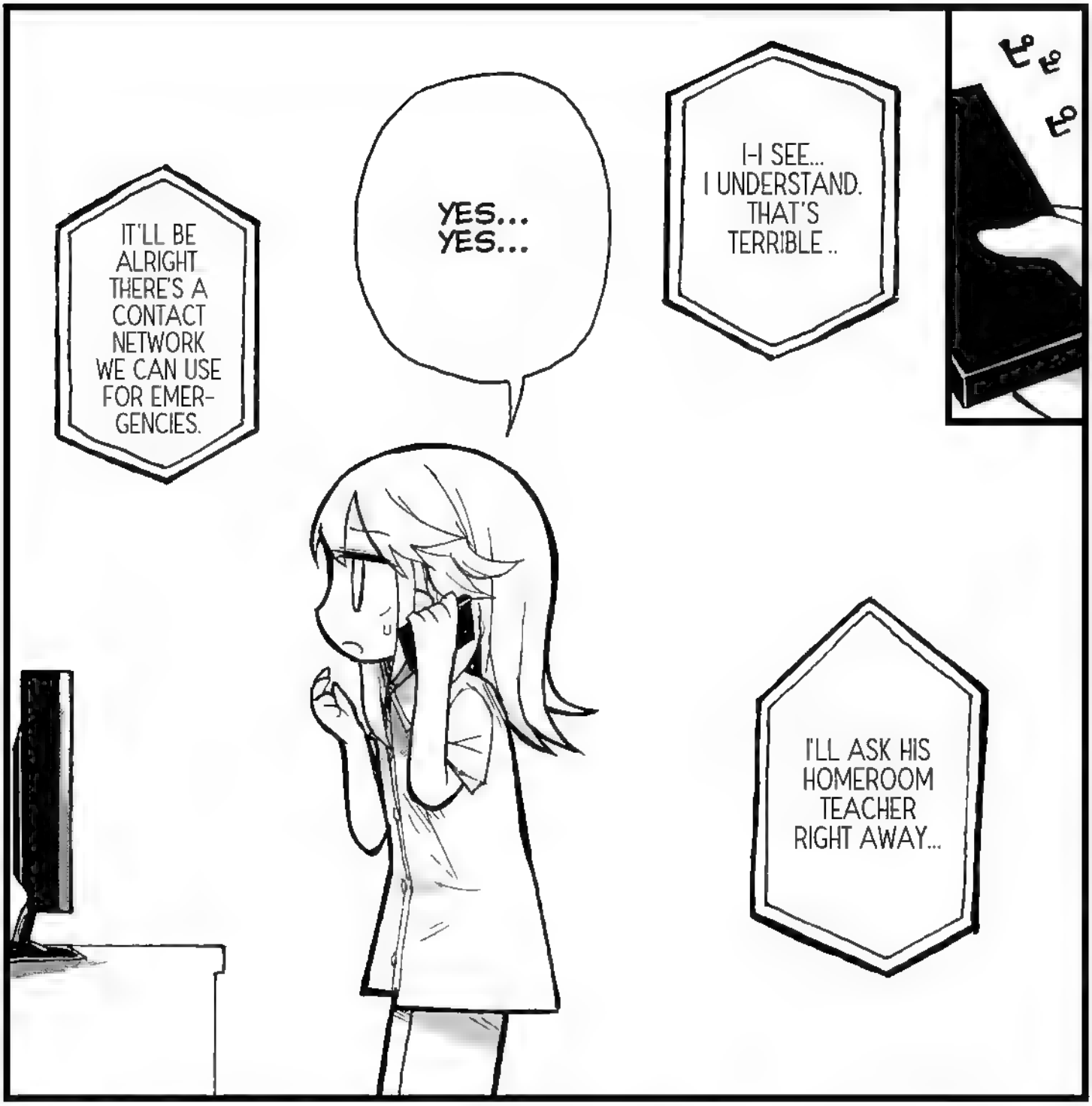
BUT IT'S BEEN THREE HOURS...


DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS...
WE DON'T KNOW FOR SURE YET.

IF HE ISN'T HOME... THEN HE MIGHT BE CRYING ALONE AT SOME PARK OR SOMETHING.
MAYBE.
HE MIGHT HAVE MADE IT OUT OF THE RIVER AND WENT HOME.

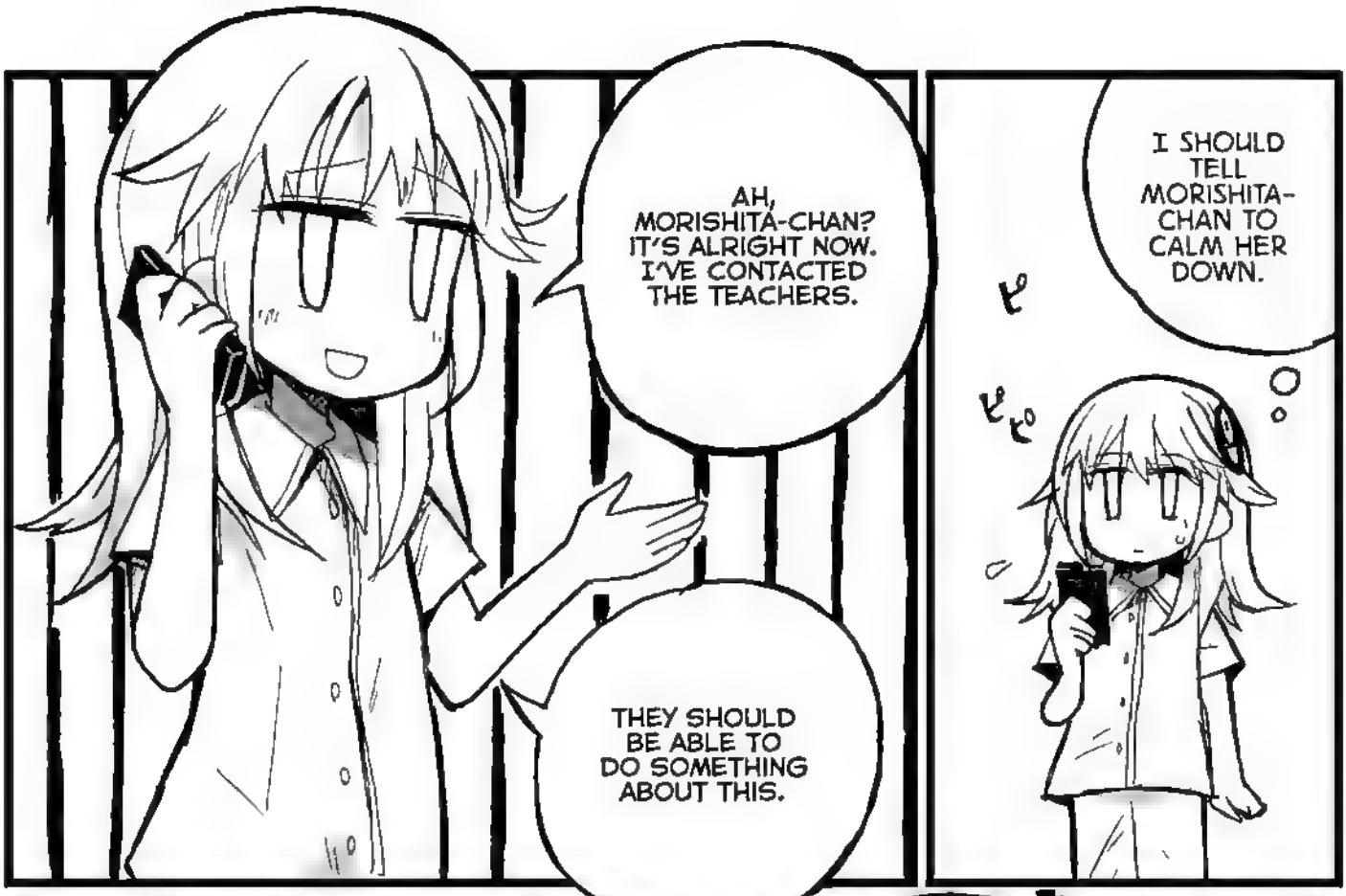
ALRIGHT! I DON'T KNOW EITHER, SO I'LL ASK SENSEI RIGHT AWAY!


BUT I DON'T KNOW HIS HOME PHONE NUMBER. SO I CAN'T CONFIRM
THE POLICE ASKED ME THAT TOO.


IT'LL BE ALRIGHT THERE'S A CONTACT NETWORK WE CAN USE FOR EMERGENCIES.
YES... YES...
I-I SEE... I UNDERSTAND. THAT'S TERRIBLE..
I'LL ASK HIS HOMEROOM TEACHER RIGHT AWAY...

A-ALRIGHT...
DON'T WORRY. YOU CAN LEAVE THE REST TO US
THANK YOU FOR TELLING ME. YOU'VE DONE WHAT YOU COULD...

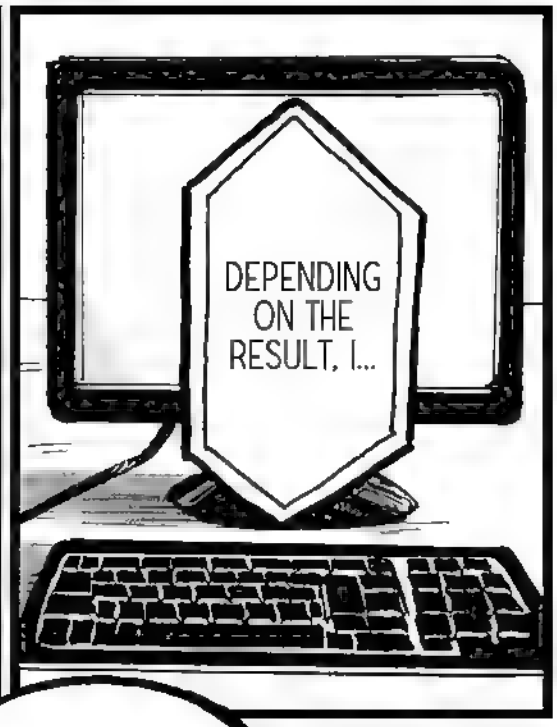
I SEE...
THAT'S JUST OBVIOUS,
I GUESS.
I'VE DONE
EVERYTHING
I COULD...
OF COURSE
THERE ARE
PROPER
PROCEDURES
IN PLACE FOR
SITUATIONS
LIKE THIS.
ALL I CAN DO
NOW IS PRAY...


AH, MORISHITA-CHAN? IT'S ALRIGHT NOW. I'VE CONTACTED THE TEACHERS.
THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS.
I SHOULD TELL MORISHITA-CHAN TO CALM HER DOWN.

"DO SOMETHING?" DO WHAT?
I KILLED HIM...

BUT WE'LL KNOW EVENTUALLY...
YET. YES...

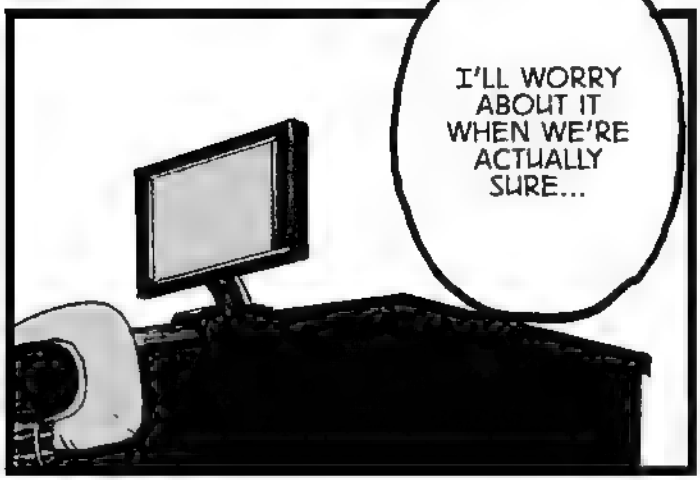
I TOLD YOU, WE DON'T KNOW JUST YET...


DEPENDING ON THE RESULT, I...

CALM DOWN, MORISHITA-CHAN... I'M RESPONSIBLE TOO.
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO YOU, I'LL DIE TOO!

THAT'S MY JOB DONE...

WE DON'T KNOW FOR SURE YET.
DON'T WORRY... SUWA-KUN CAN'T BE DEAD.


I'LL WORRY ABOUT IT WHEN WE'RE ACTUALLY SURE...

RIGHT... WE DON'T KNOW IF HE'S DEAD OR NOT JUST YET.

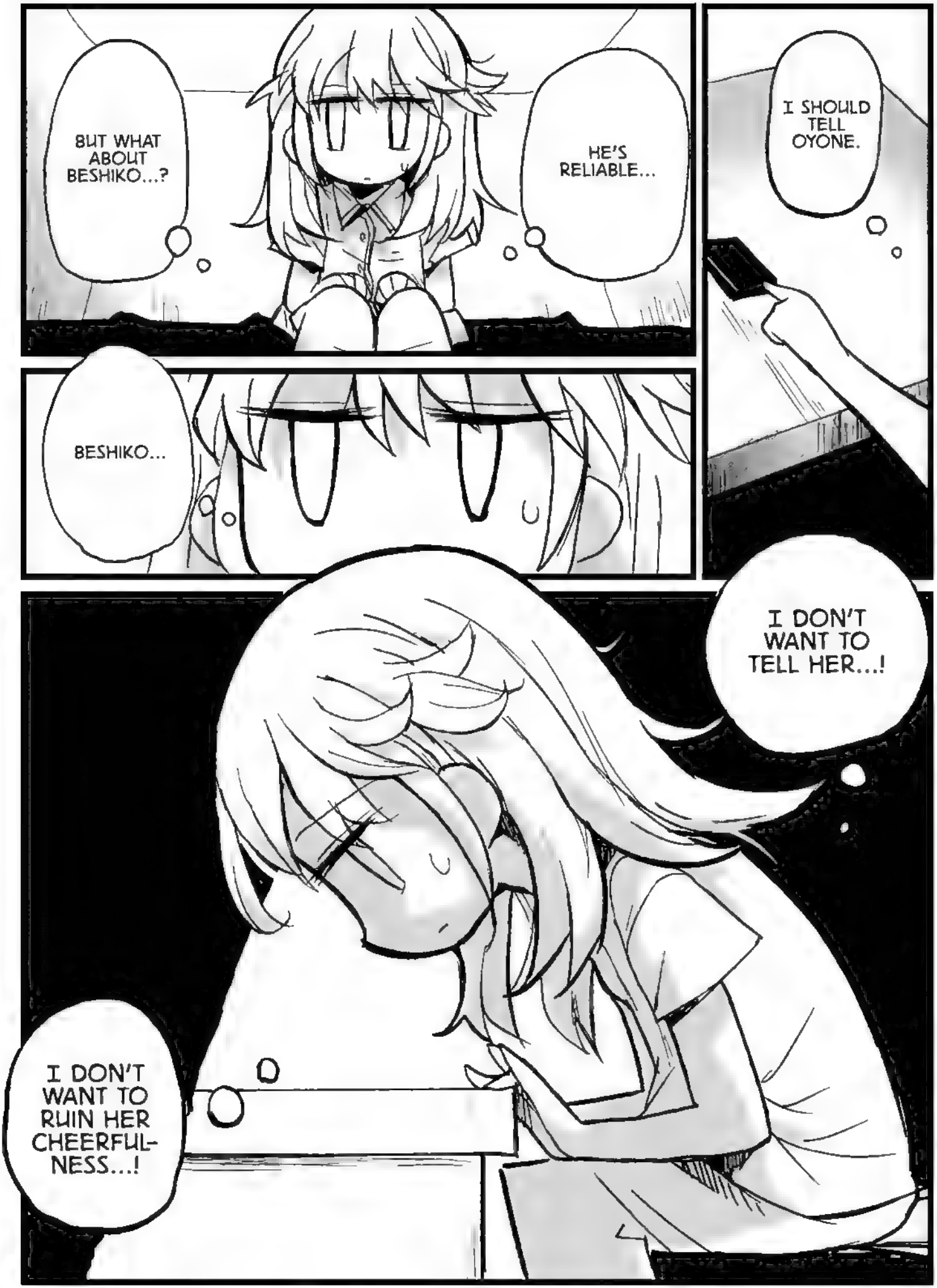
I'LL WORRY ABOUT IT THEN...
I'LL WORRY ABOUT IT WHEN IT TURNS OUT THAT HE ACTUALLY IS DEAD.
IF HE'S DEAD...
IF HE'S DEAD...
I'LL WORRY ABOUT IT...
I'LL WORRY ABOUT IT IF HE'S DEAD.
IF HE'S DEAD...

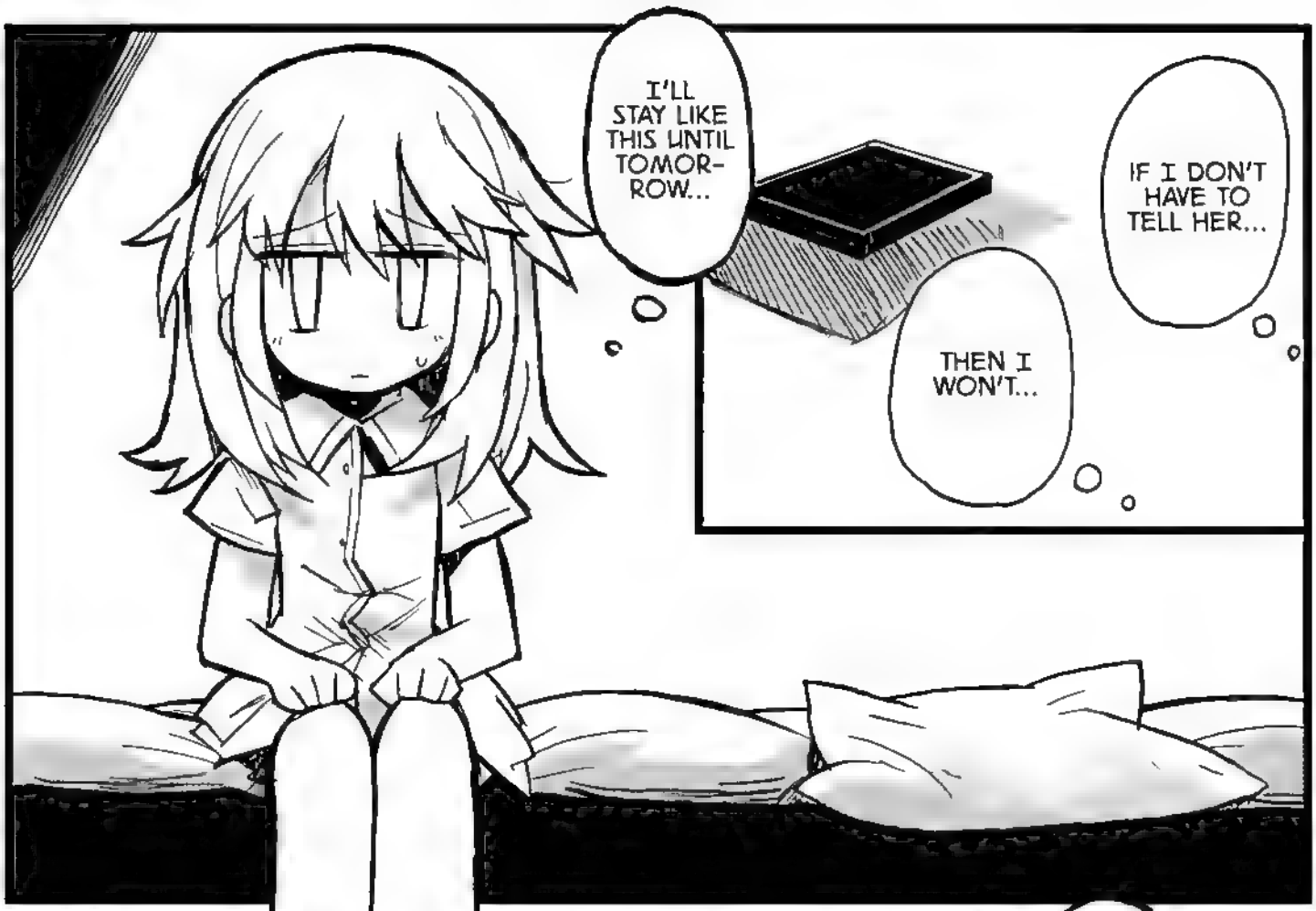
IT'S ALL OVER.
IF HE'S DEAD...
WHAT IF HE ACTU-ALLY IS...?
HE'LL DISAPPEAR FROM THE SCHOOL.
IT'LL BE AS IF THE SUN HAS VANISHED FROM THE CLUB...
OUR GAME WILL NEVER BE FINISHED.
MORISHITA-CHAN WILL FALL INTO DESPAIR.

IF HE'S DEAD...
IF HE'S DEAD...

IT'S OVER...
IF HE'S DEAD...
IT'S ALL OVER...

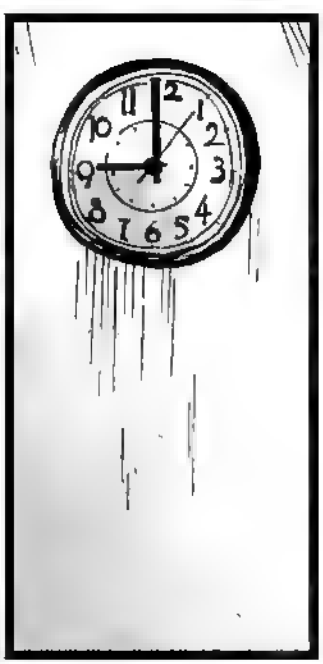
SOMEONE, HELP...
I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT IT.
I CAN'T...
I HAVE TO TELL THEM TOO...

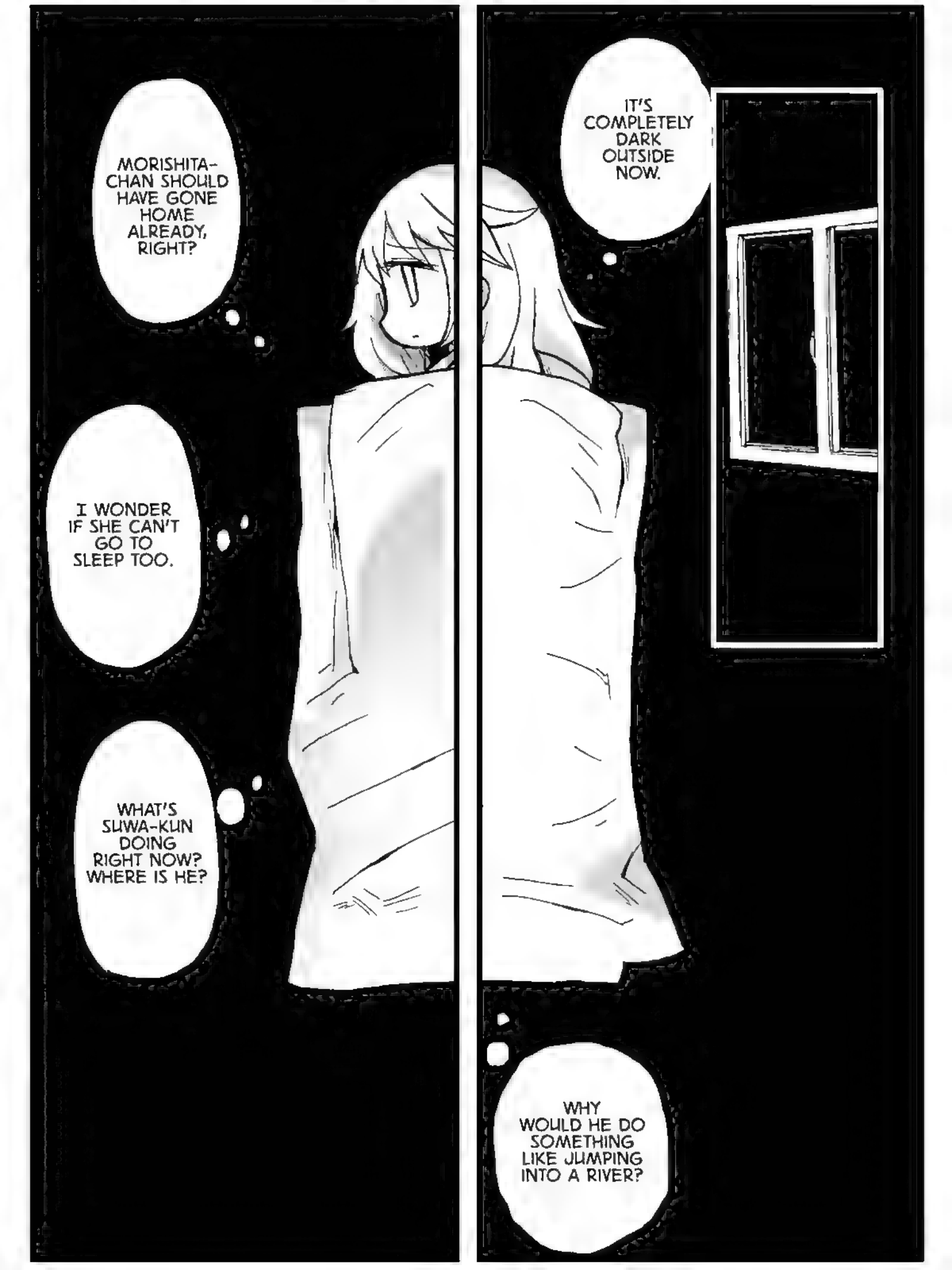

BUT WHAT ABOUT BESHIKO...?
HE'S RELIABLE...
I SHOULD TELL OYONE.
BESHIKO...
I DON'T WANT TO TELL HER...!
I DON'T WANT TO RUIN HER CHEERFUL-NESS...!

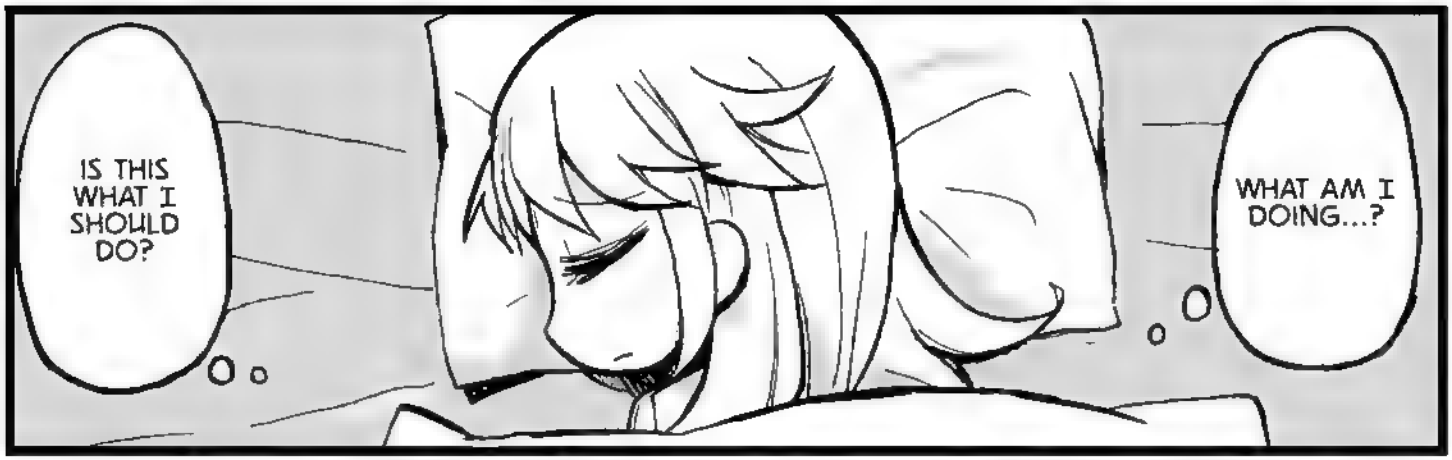

I'LL STAY LIKE THIS UNTIL TOMOR-ROW...
IF I DON'T HAVE TO TELL HER...
THEN I WON'T...

JUST SITTING STILL...
NOT THINKING ABOUT ANYTHING,

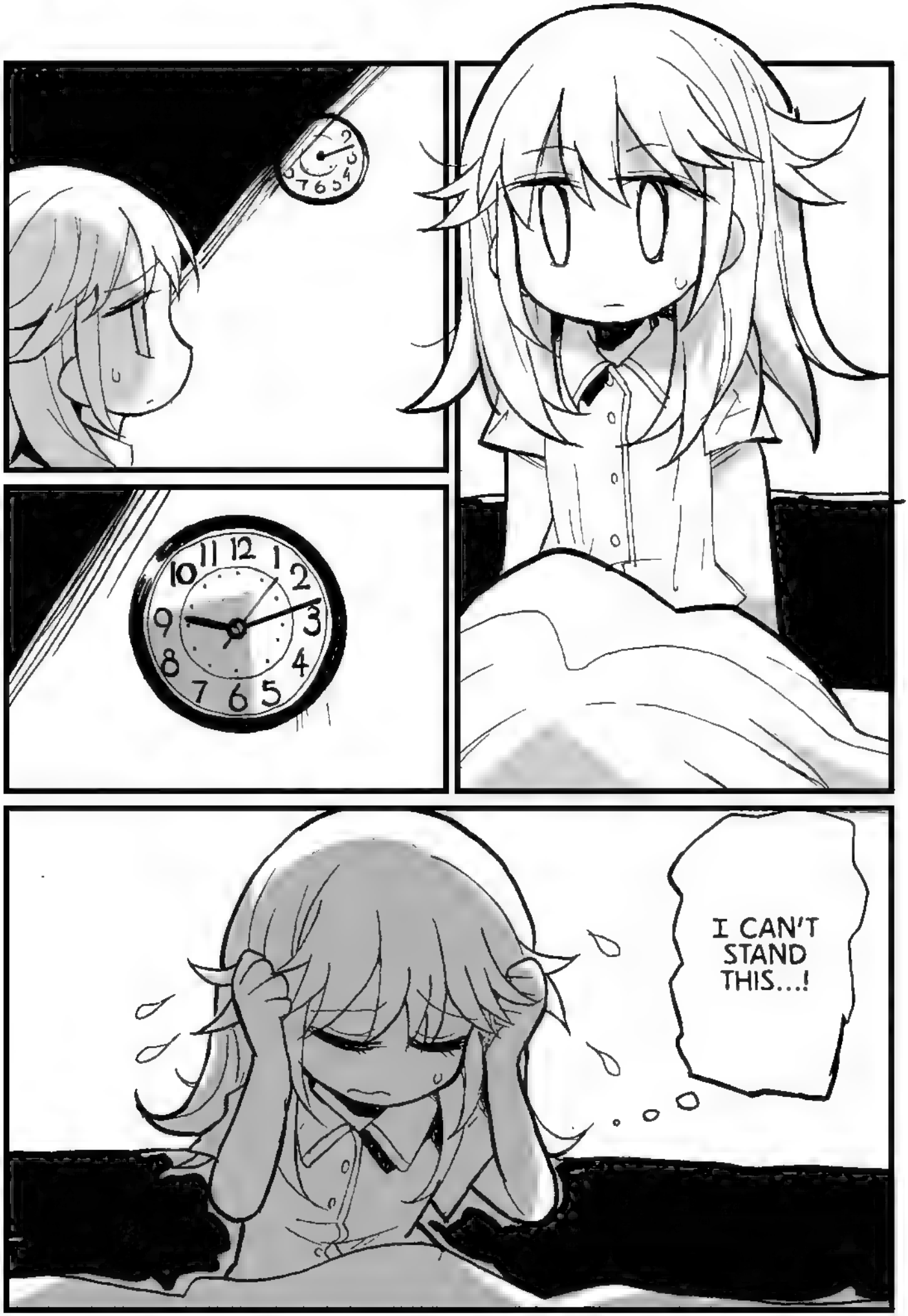
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE STAYING AWAKE WOULD DO ME ANY GOOD.
IT'S STILL A BIT EARLY,
NINE O'CLOCK, HUH...?

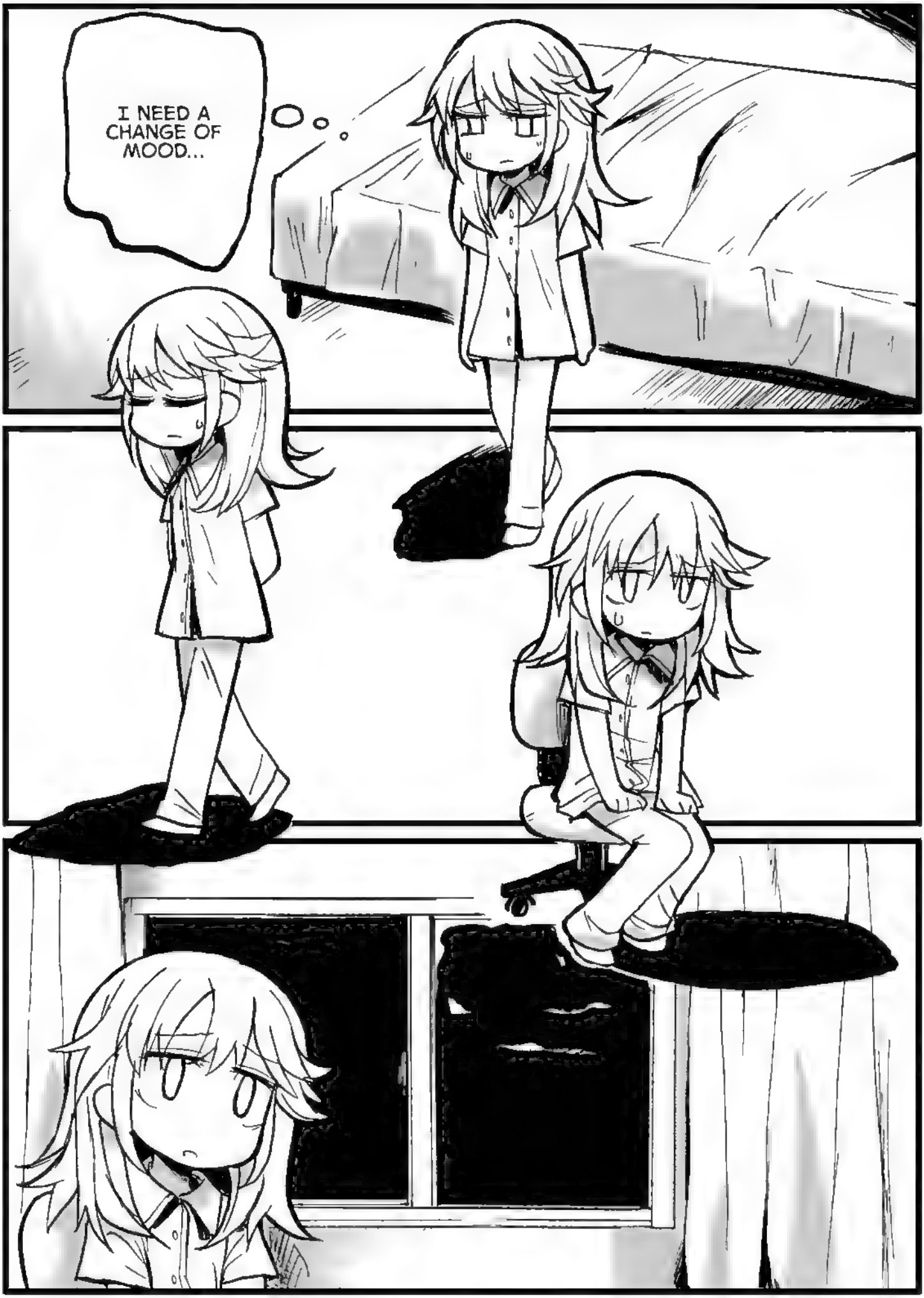



MORISHITA-CHAN SHOULD HAVE GONE HOME ALREADY, RIGHT?
I WONDER IF SHE CAN'T GO TO SLEEP TOO.
WHAT'S SUWA-KUN DOING RIGHT NOW? WHERE IS HE?
IT'S COMPLETELY DARK OUTSIDE NOW.
WHY WOULD HE DO SOMETHING LIKE JUMPING INTO A RIVER?

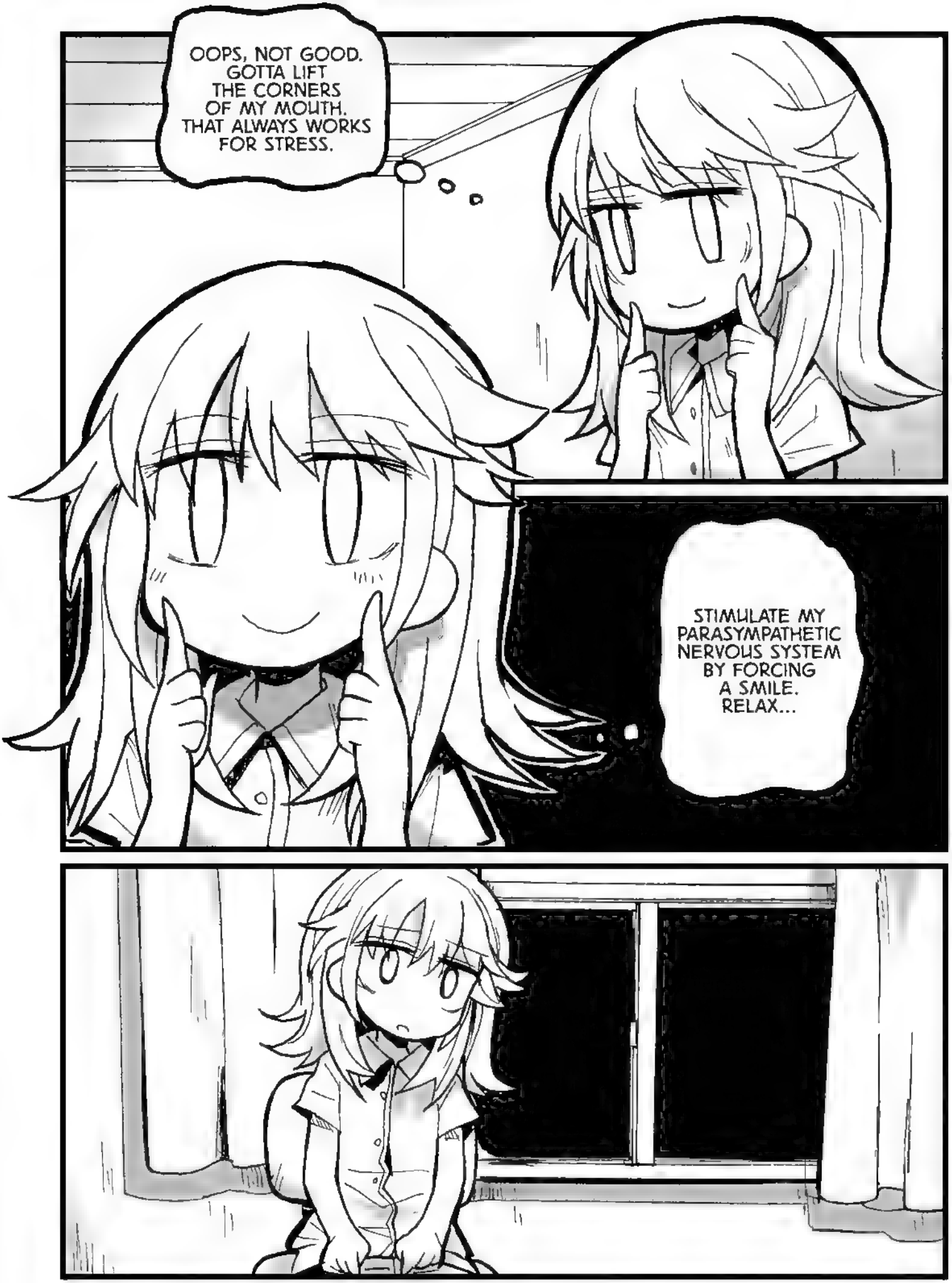

IS THIS WHAT I SHOULD DO?
WHAT AM I DOING...?

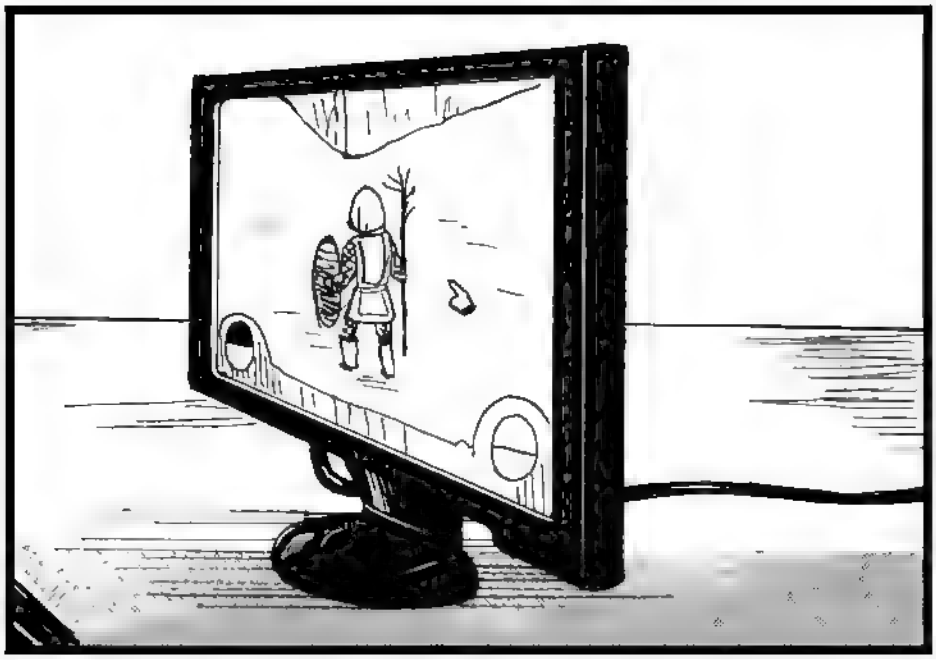
IS IT MY FAULT...?


I CAN'T STAND THIS...!


I NEED A CHANGE OF MOOD...

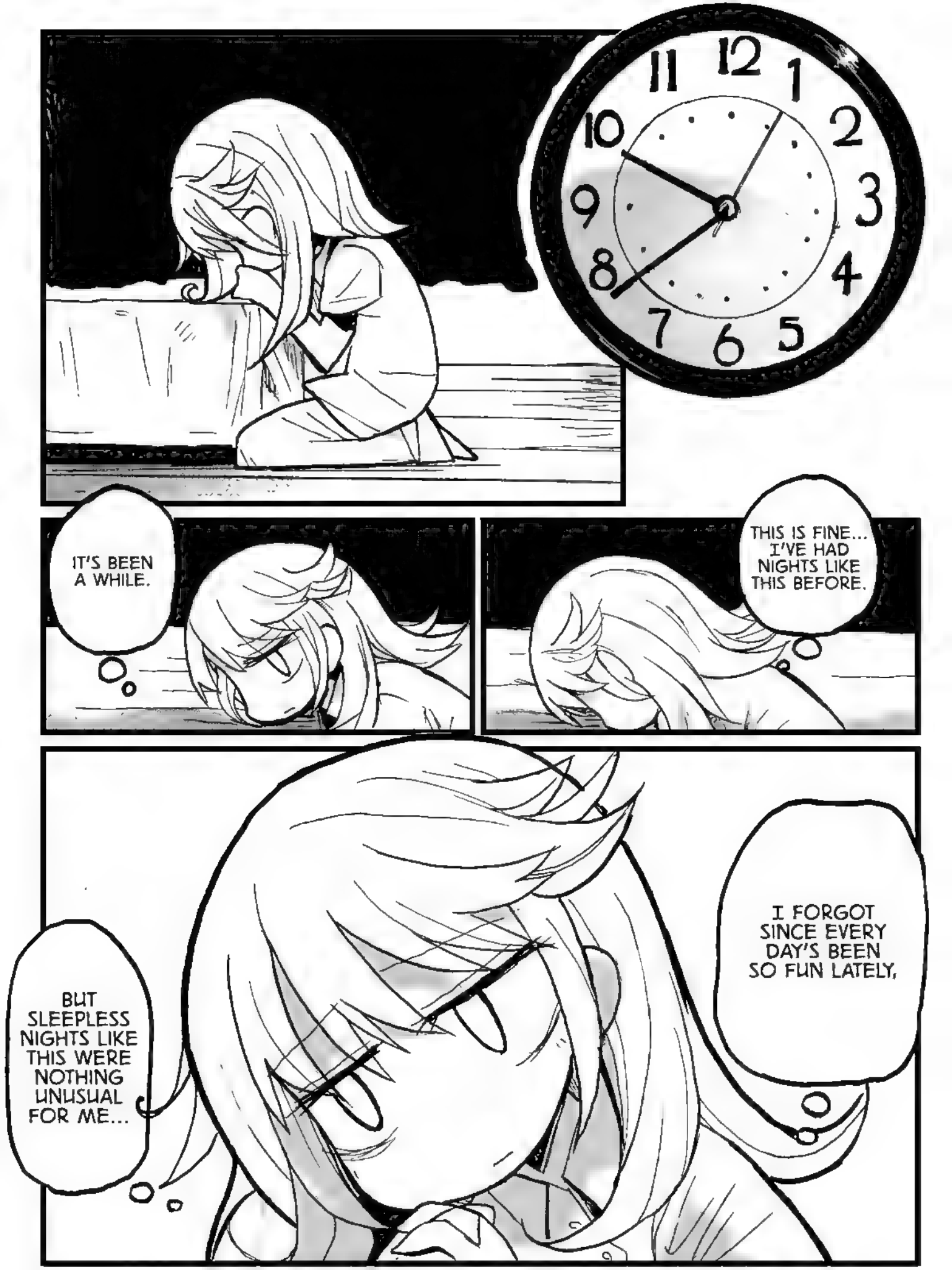
IT'S MY FAULT...
THOSE FUN DAYS AT THE GAME CLUB WON'T EVER RETURN.
I DON'T WANT TO SEE THAT TOUGH MORISHITA-CHAN BE DEPRESSED.
SHE'S SUCH A SINCERE GIRL... AND NOW SHE MIGHT END UP KILLING HERSELF.


OOPS, NOT GOOD. GOTTA LIFT THE CORNERS OF MY MOUTH. THAT ALWAYS WORKS FOR STRESS.
STIMULATE MY PARASYMPATHETIC NERVOUS SYSTEM BY FORCING A SMILE. RELAX...

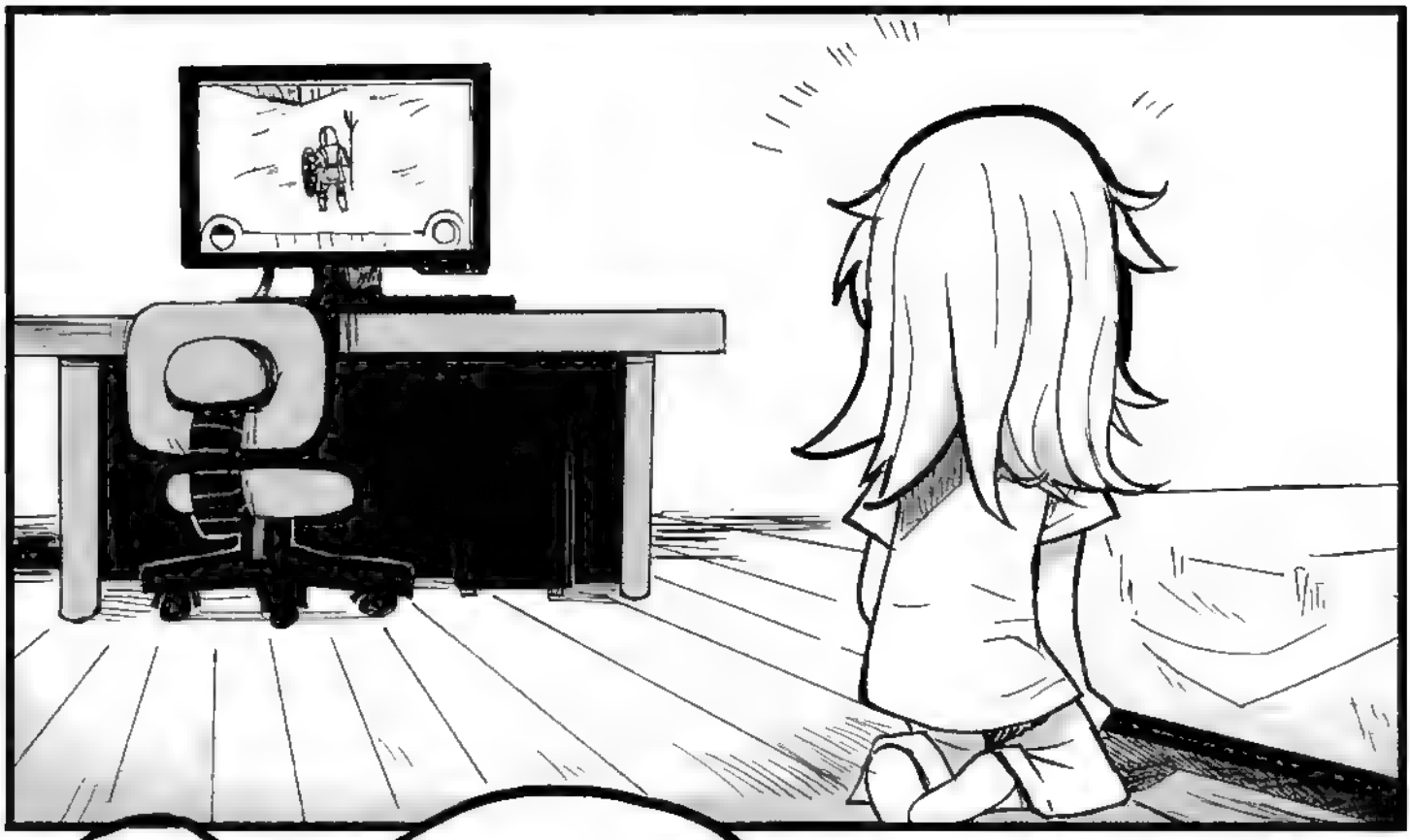


I HAD NO IDEA WHAT WAS GOING ON...

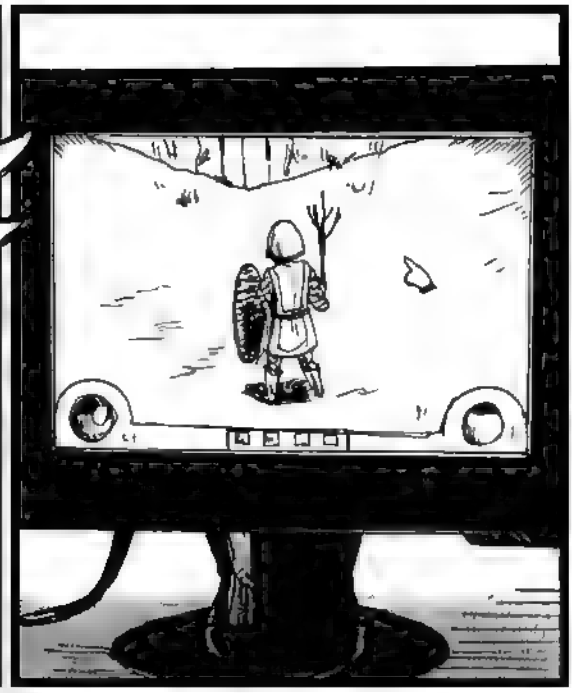
HOW CLUELESS I WAS... I WAS PLAYING SOME STUPID GAME UP UNTIL THEN.


IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
THIS IS FINE... I'VE HAD NIGHTS LIKE THIS BEFORE.
BUT SLEEPLESS NIGHTS LIKE THIS WERE NOTHING UNUSUAL FOR ME...
I FORGOT SINCE EVERY DAY'S BEEN SO FUN LATELY,

DAY AFTER DAY, I WISHED THAT THE WORLD WOULD JUST END.
CURSING MY PARENTS. CURSING SCHOOL.
EVERY EVENING, EVERY NIGHT, I WOULD WALLOW IN SADNESS.
I FORGOT...
HOW DID I SURVIVE?
HOW DID I MANAGE TO SURVIVE THAT...?



IT WAS GAMES.
I HAD GAMES!

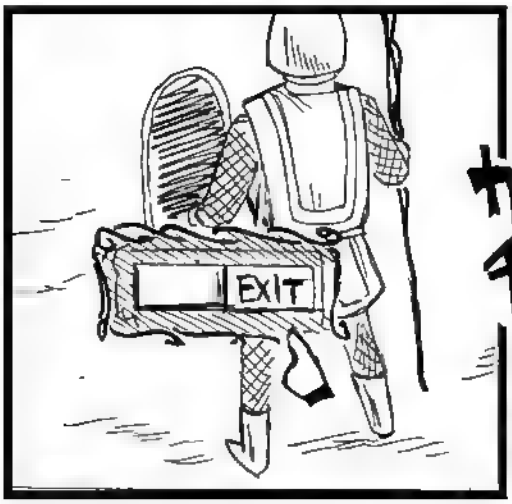


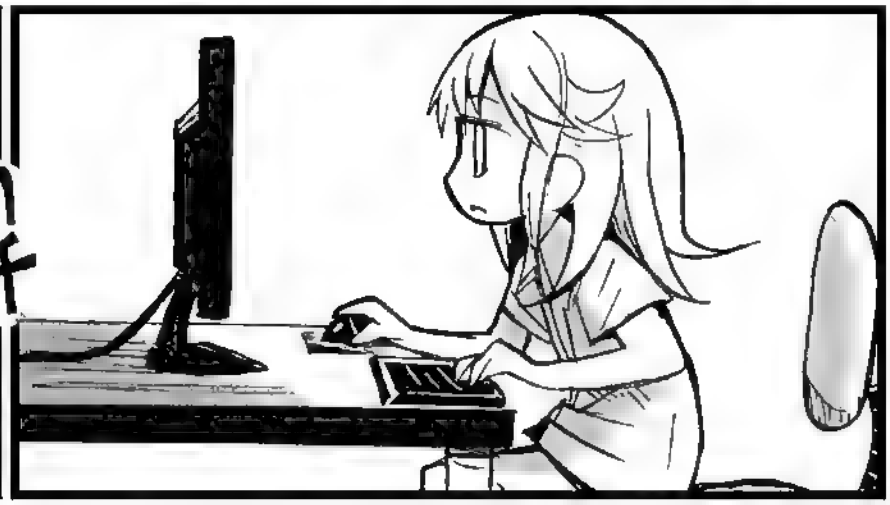
GAMES WERE WHAT SAVED ME!

DURING MY DARKEST HOUR...
"SOME STUPID GAME?" WHAT AM I EVEN SAYING?

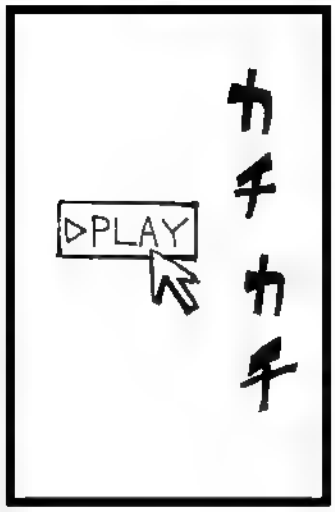
GAMES WERE THE ONLY THINGS THAT SAVED THIS BULLIED CHILD FROM DEATH.
GAMES WERE WHAT GAVE ME HOPE.
NOT MY PARENTS,
NOT THE TEACHERS,
I REMEMBER NOW...
I SURVIVED BECAUSE I HAD GAMES...!

I LOOKED FORWARD TO THE SEQUELS.
I GOT AS MUCH ENJOYMENT AS POSSIBLE OUT OF THEM.
I LOOKED INTO THE OLDER GAMES TOO...


EXIT

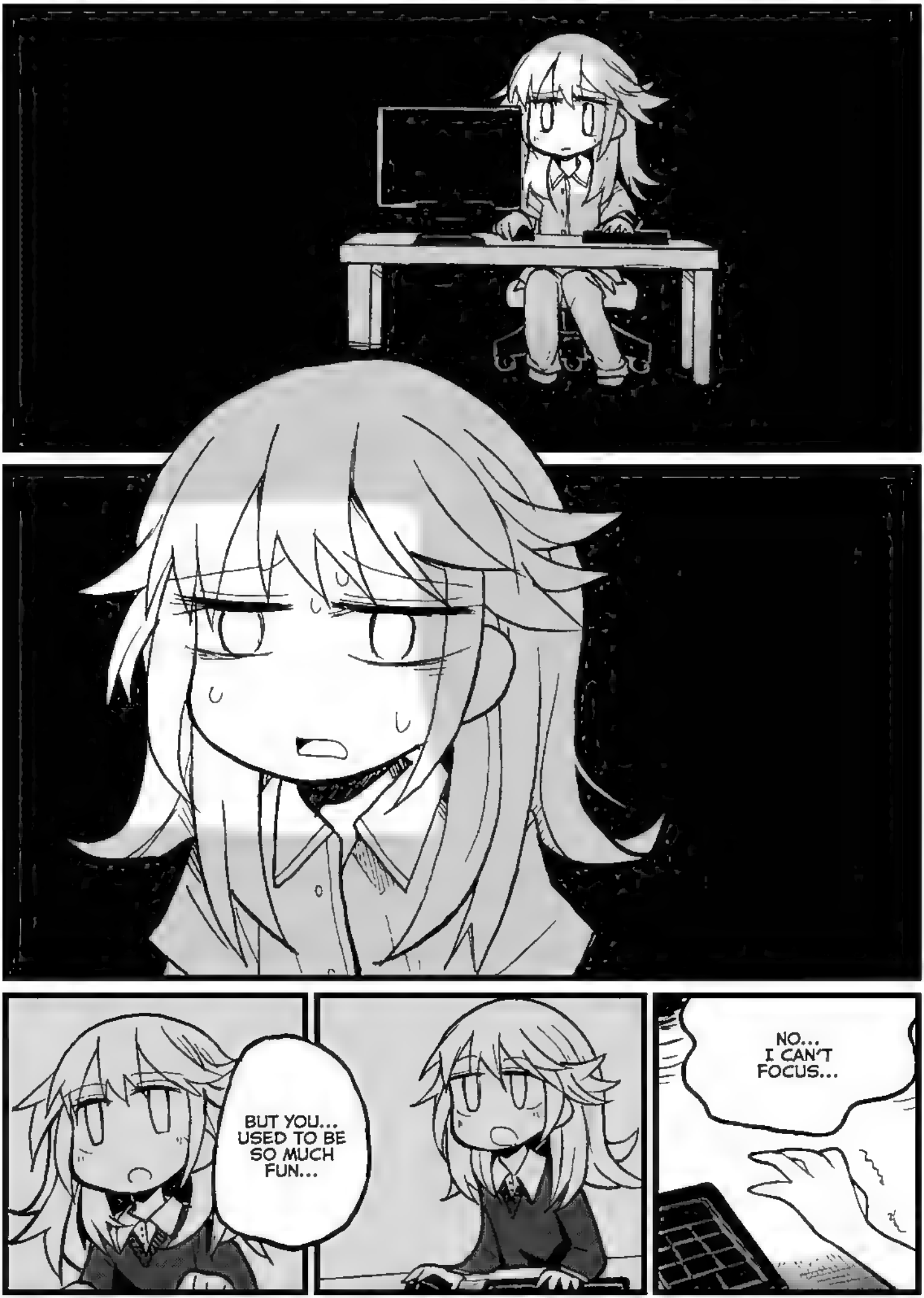

カチ

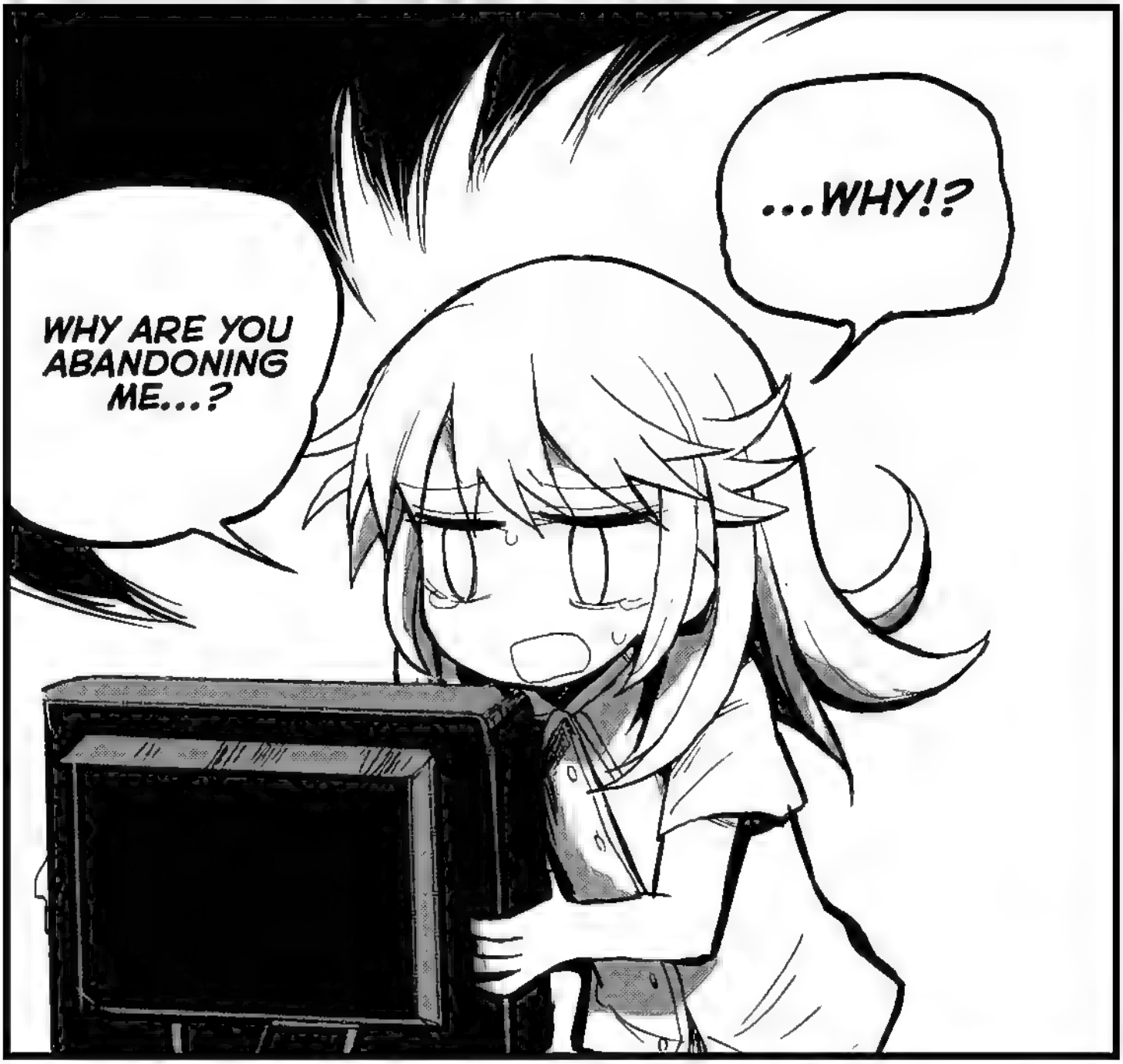
ドッ


カチカチ
▷PLAY

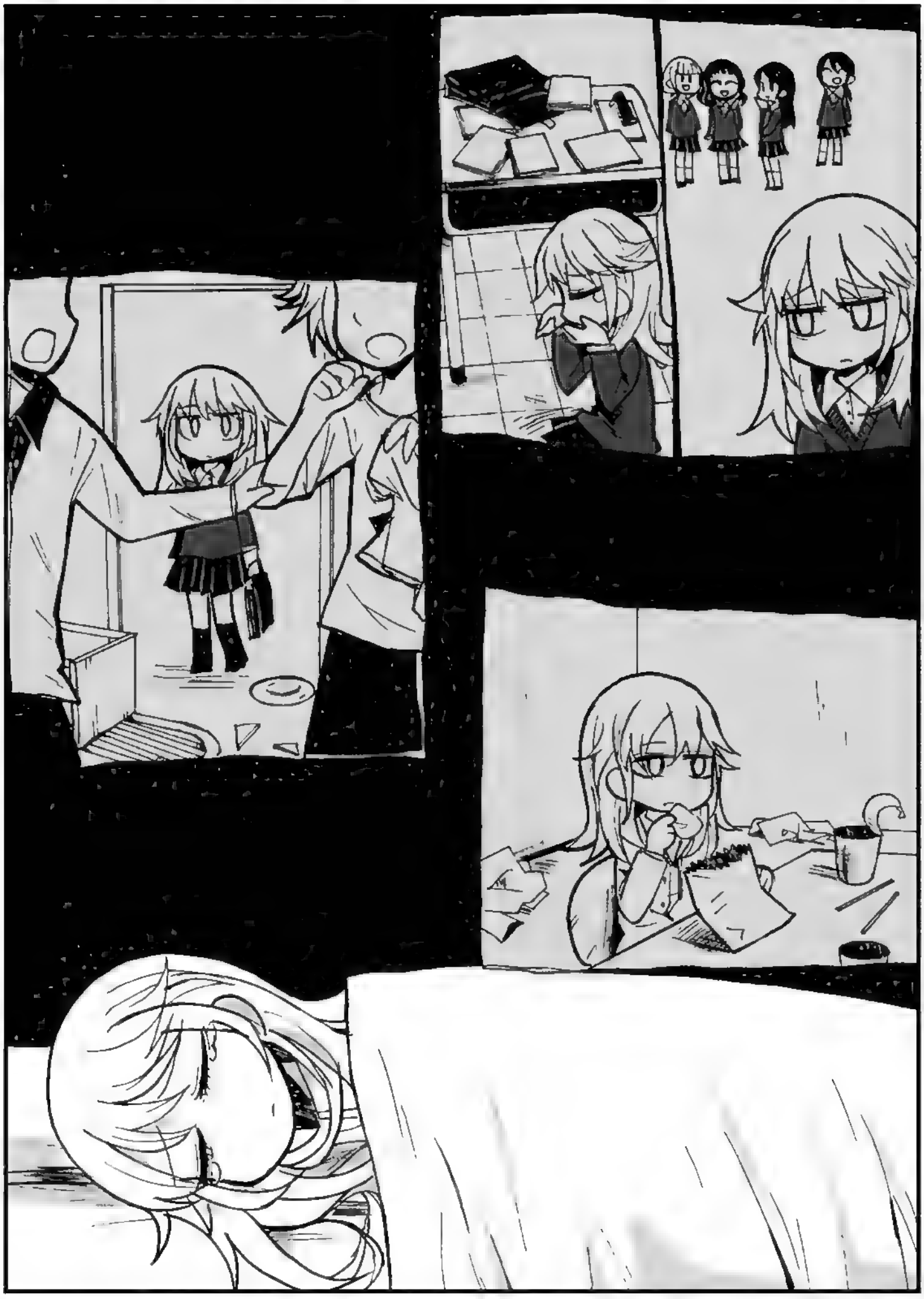
I NEED IT NOW...
GIVE ME YOUR STRENGTH...

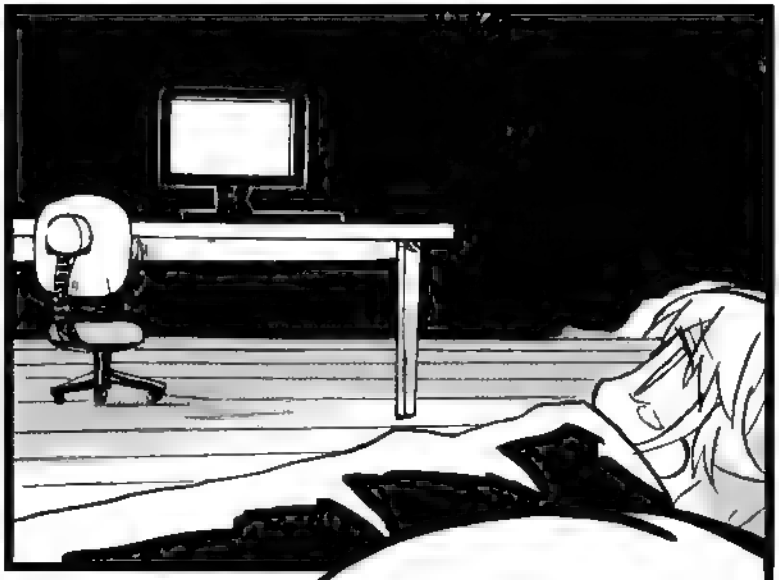
EXIT
▷PLAY


BUT YOU... USED TO BE SO MUCH FUN...
NO... I CAN'T FOCUS...


...WHY!?
WHY ARE YOU ABANDONING ME...?

I'M STILL ALIVE TODAY...
BECAUSE YOU TOLD ME THAT IT'S FINE FOR ME TO LIVE...!





I'M STILL ALIVE BECAUSE YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU'D ALWAYS BE BY MY SIDE.

IF I CAN'T RELY ON YOU WHEN IT'S TRULY HARD... THEN WHAT SHOULD I DO?

IT'S ALL OVER...

IT'S OVER...

ちょっと——
——ちょっと——

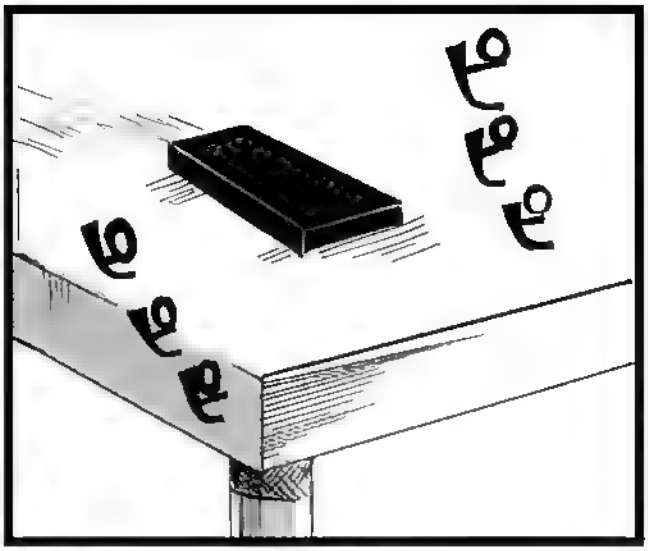
むしょのー
ろうまー
ぷかぷかー

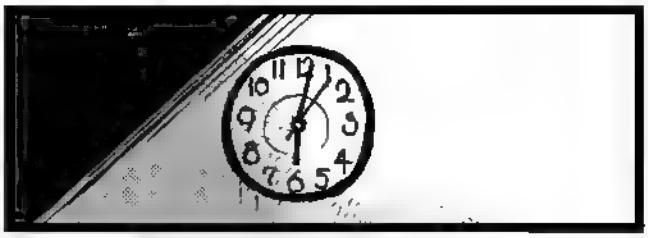
ふるーふる
ぷるぷる
ぷるぷるぷる

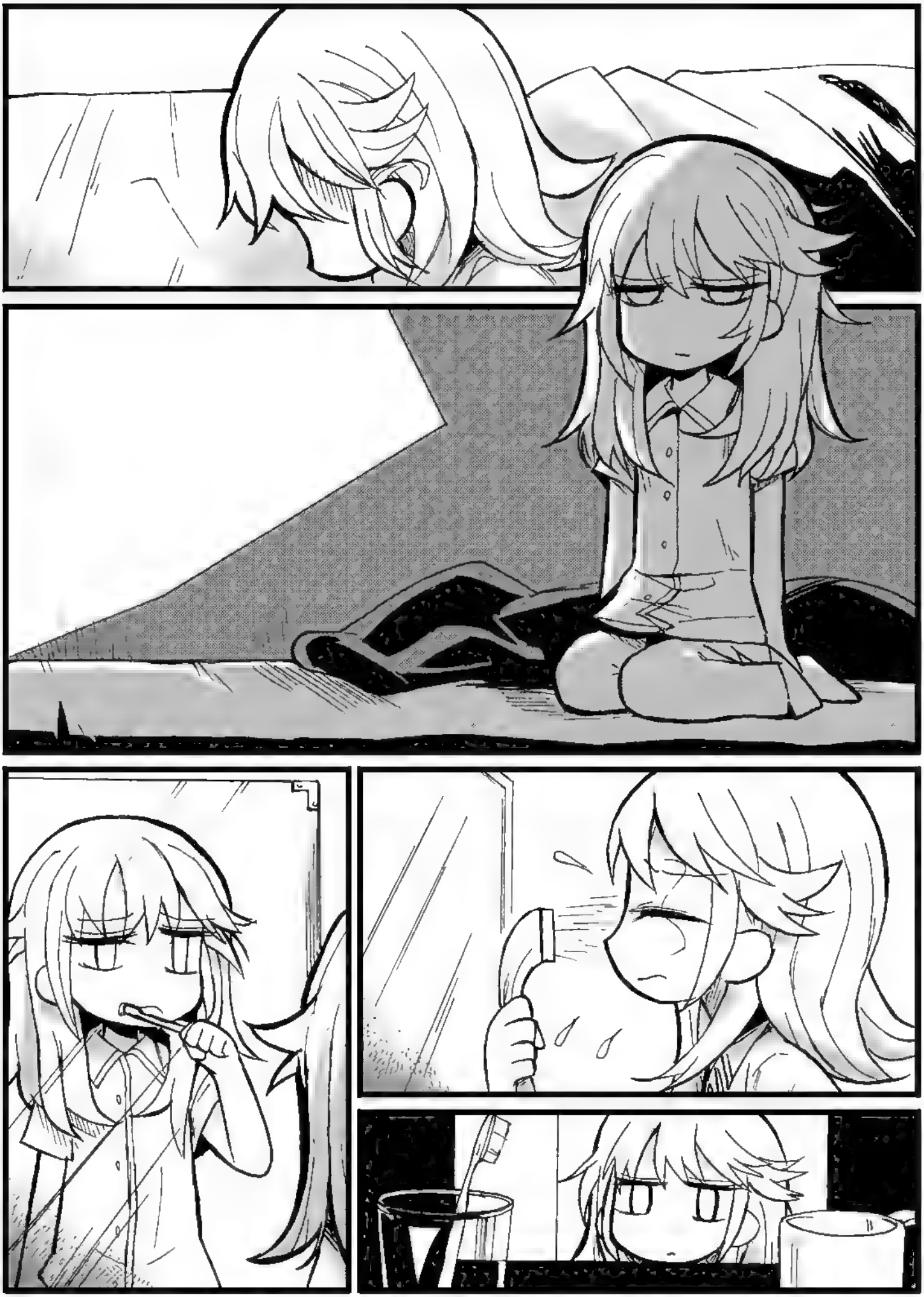
I DON'T WANT TO LIVE ANYMORE.
KILL ME...
KILL ME...

IT'S NOT MY FAULT. HELL IF I CARE.
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN. I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
YEAH, I DON'T CARE ANYMORE.
I'M STARTING TO CARE LESS AND LESS ABOUT IT...

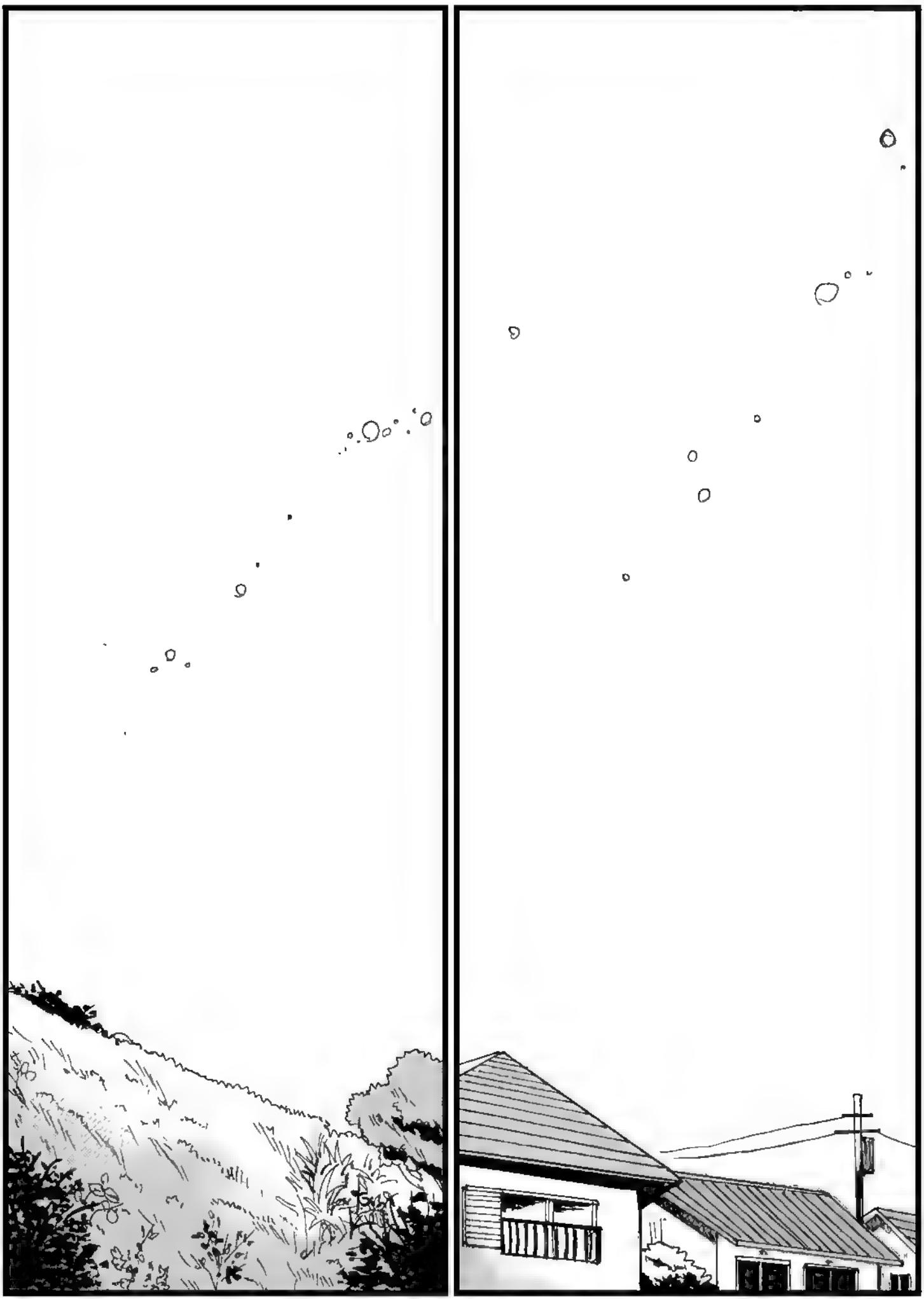
I'M SLEEPY...
I'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH IT...
I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS.





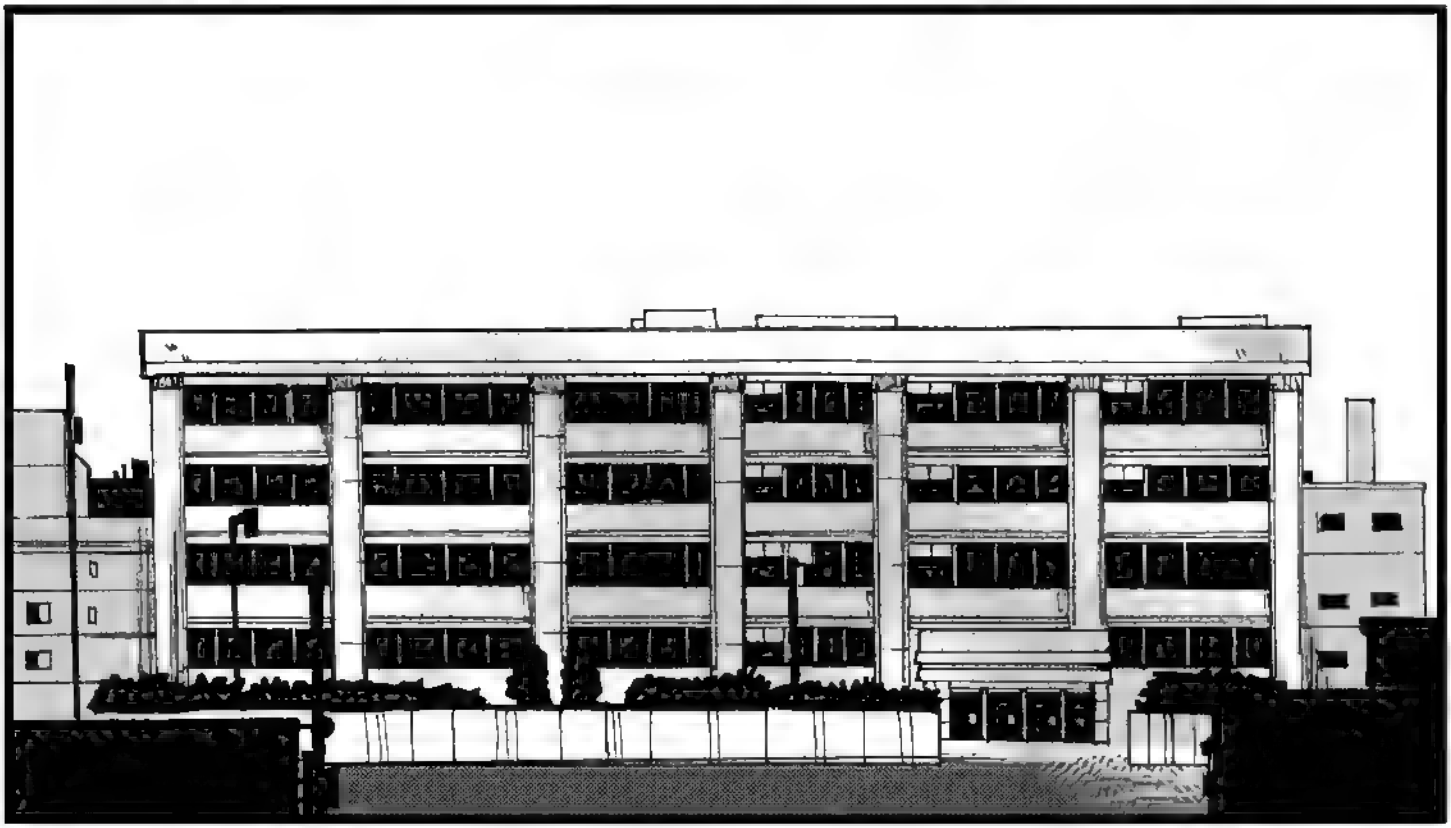


YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN MY IDOL...

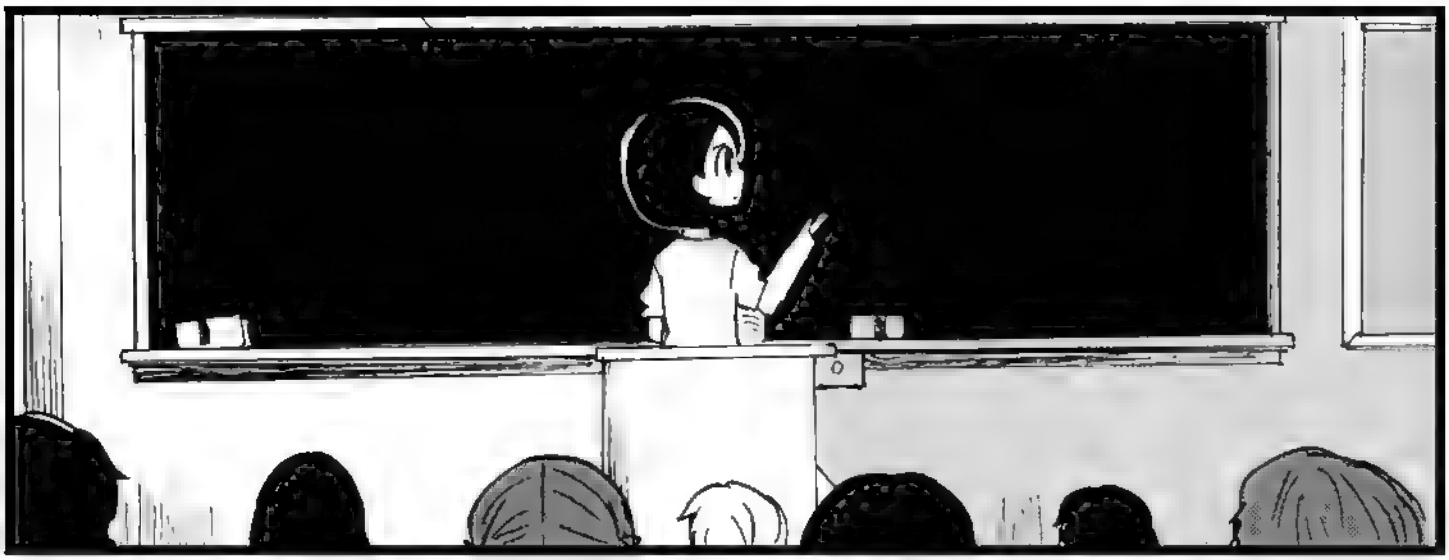


THERE HE IS!

I'M NOT WORTHY OF YOU...
I...
AAH... JUNKO...



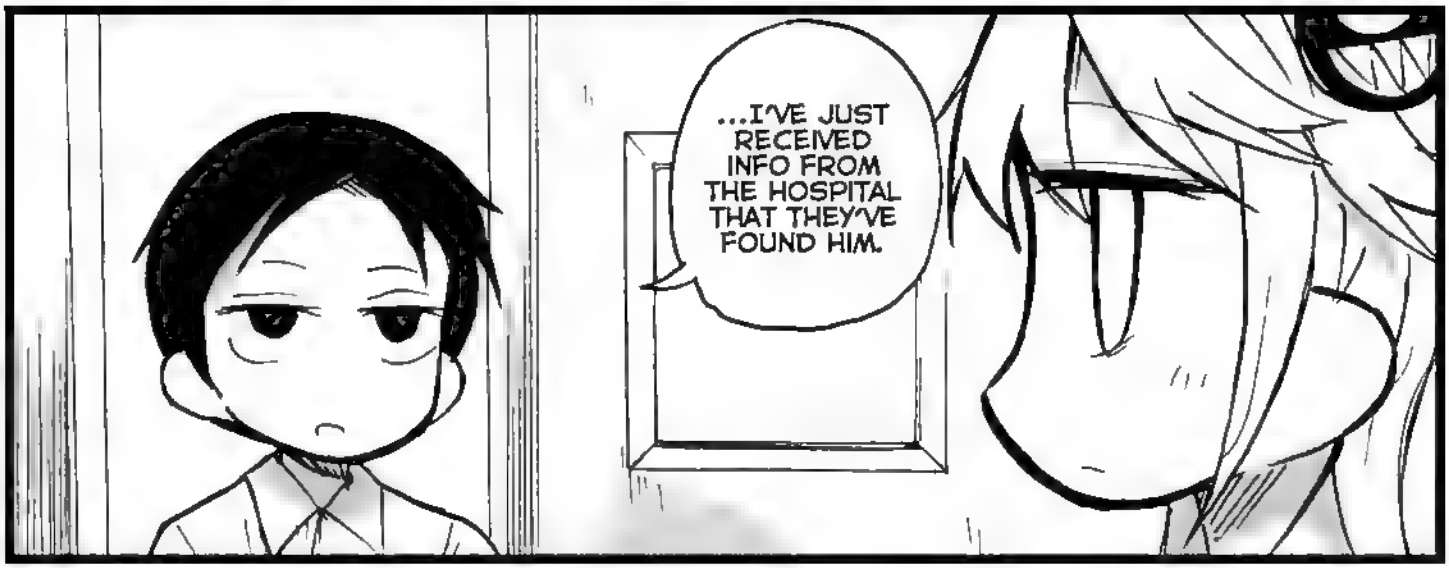
MORNING.
AH... MORNING.
WE HAVEN'T DONE OUR REPORTS.
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU, HONOR STUDENT.
CAN YOU PLEASE NOT COME CRYING TO ME WHEN IT'S ALMOST TIME TO SUBMIT THEM?



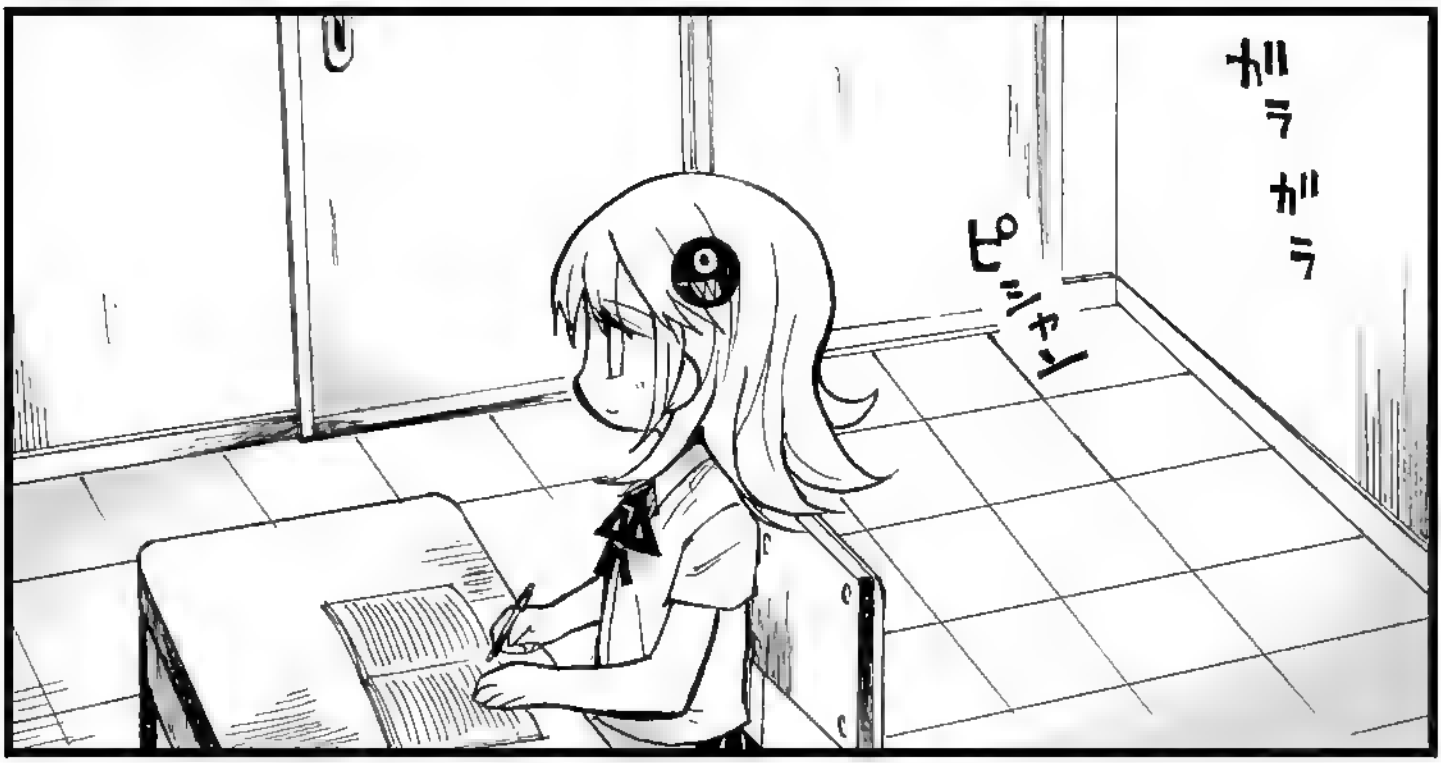
MAY I HAVE A MOMENT, MA'AM?

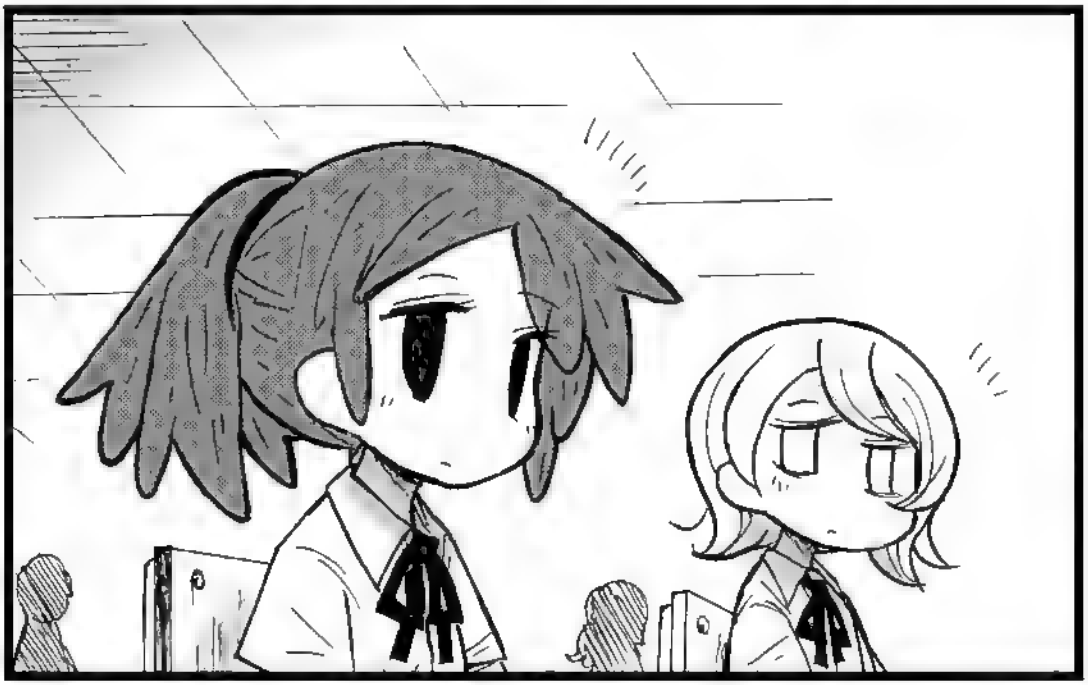
ガラ…

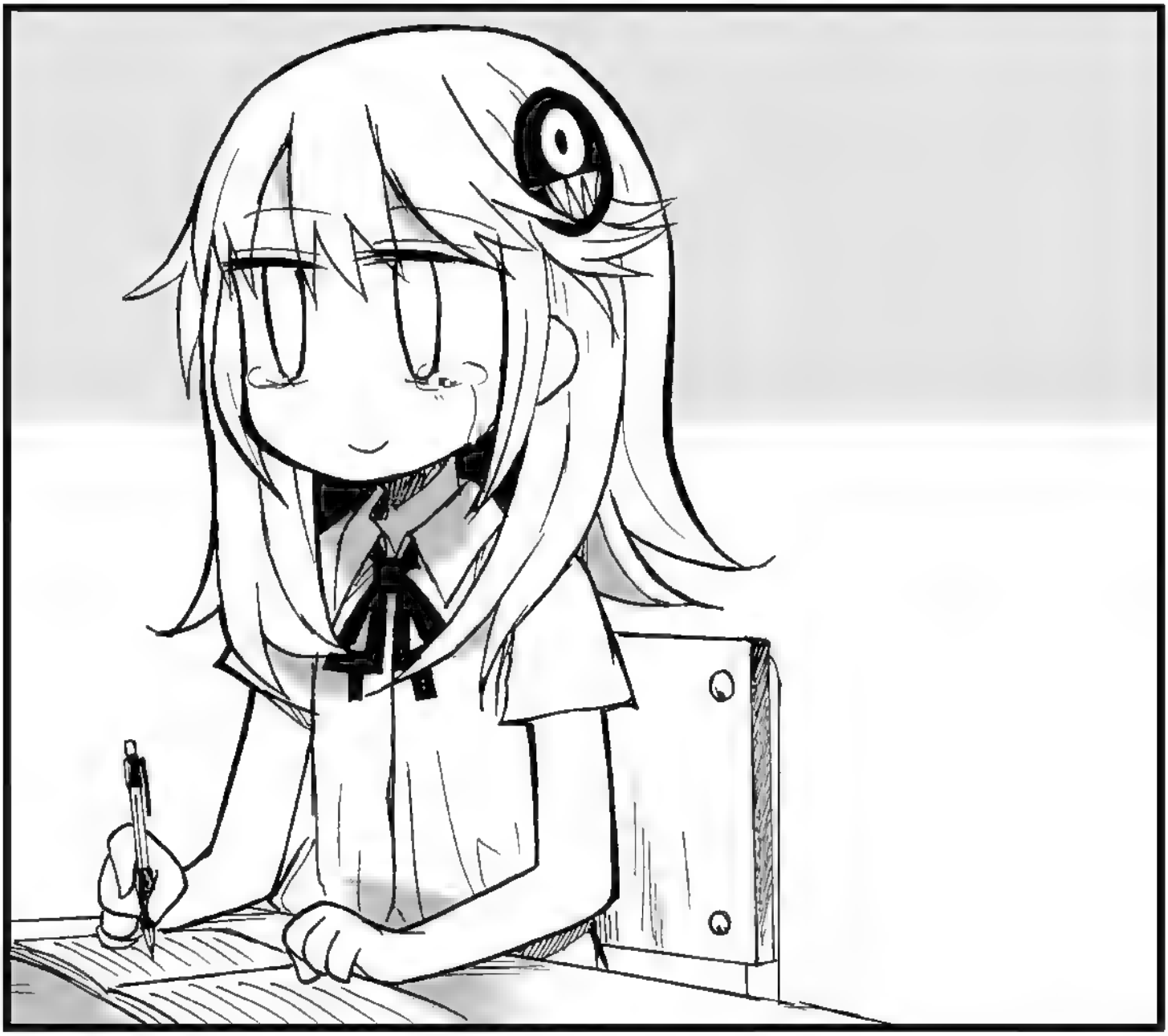
HUH? SURE...

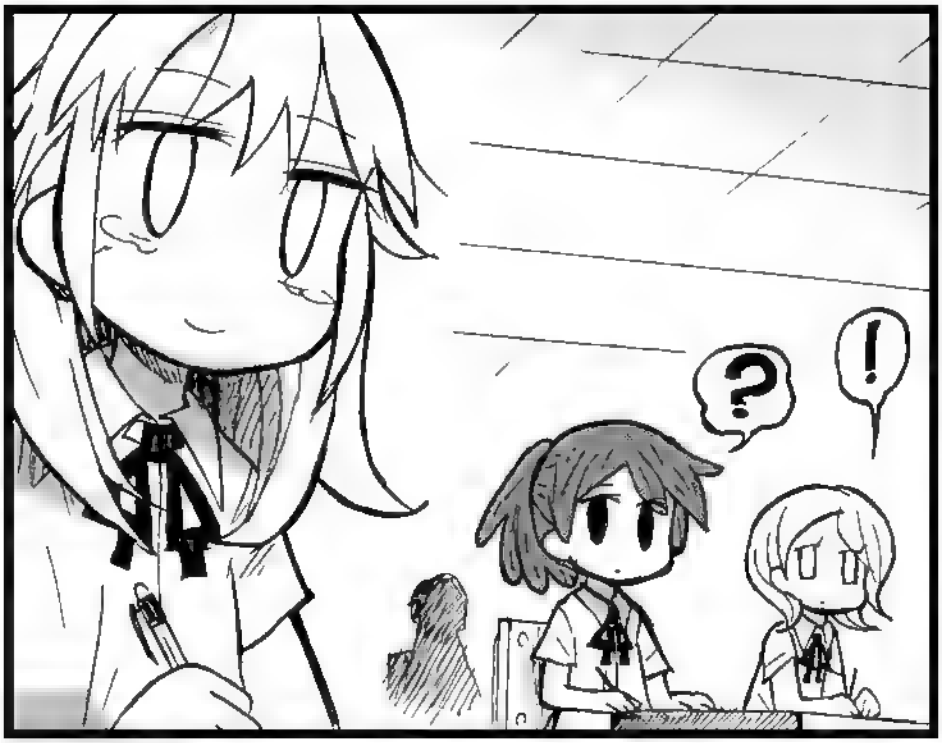

...I'VE JUST RECEIVED INFO FROM THE HOSPITAL THAT THEY'VE FOUND HIM.

HE'S HURT, BUT HE'S ALIVE...
YOU'RE PROBABLY WORRIED ABOUT HIM, SO I FIGURED THAT YOU'D WANT TO KNOW THAT.
THAT'S ALL...


ガラガラ
ピッシャー







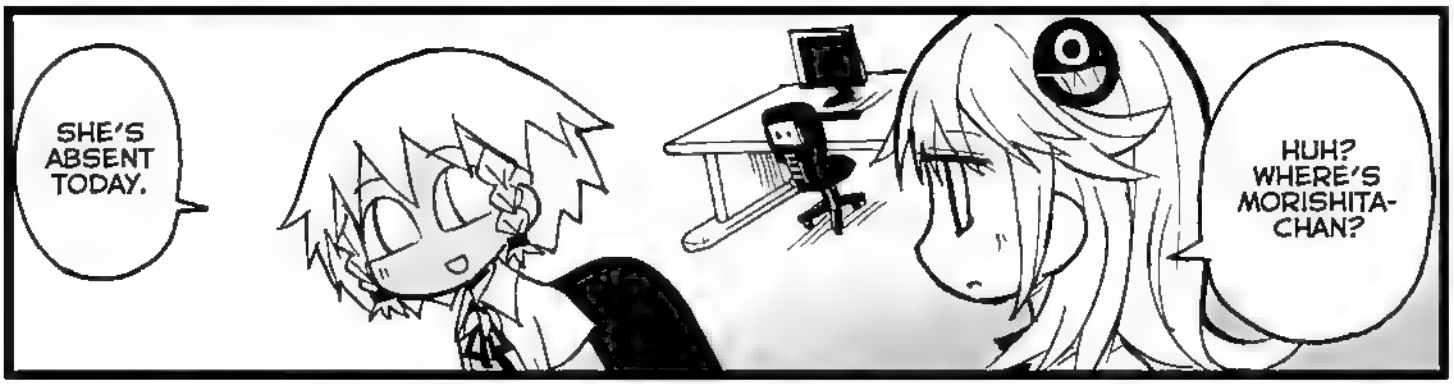
キーン
コーン
カーン
コーン
ガラッ

MWAH!

EVERYONE! DOING WELL?

WELL? HOW ARE YOU DOING?
JUST SWELL.

MMM-MWAH!


SHE'S ABSENT TODAY.
HUH? WHERE'S MORISHITA-CHAN?

POOR GIRL. SHE MUST BE SO DOWN.
SHE MIGHT NOT KNOW THAT THEY'VE FOUND HIM...

GEH.

I NEED TIME TO COOL OFF TOO!
GEEZ! CAN'T I CATCH A BREAK!?

GEH.
HER PHONE'S OFF...

I SHOULD GIVE HER A CALL.

OH WELL. I'M GOING TO HER HOUSE.

WHY?

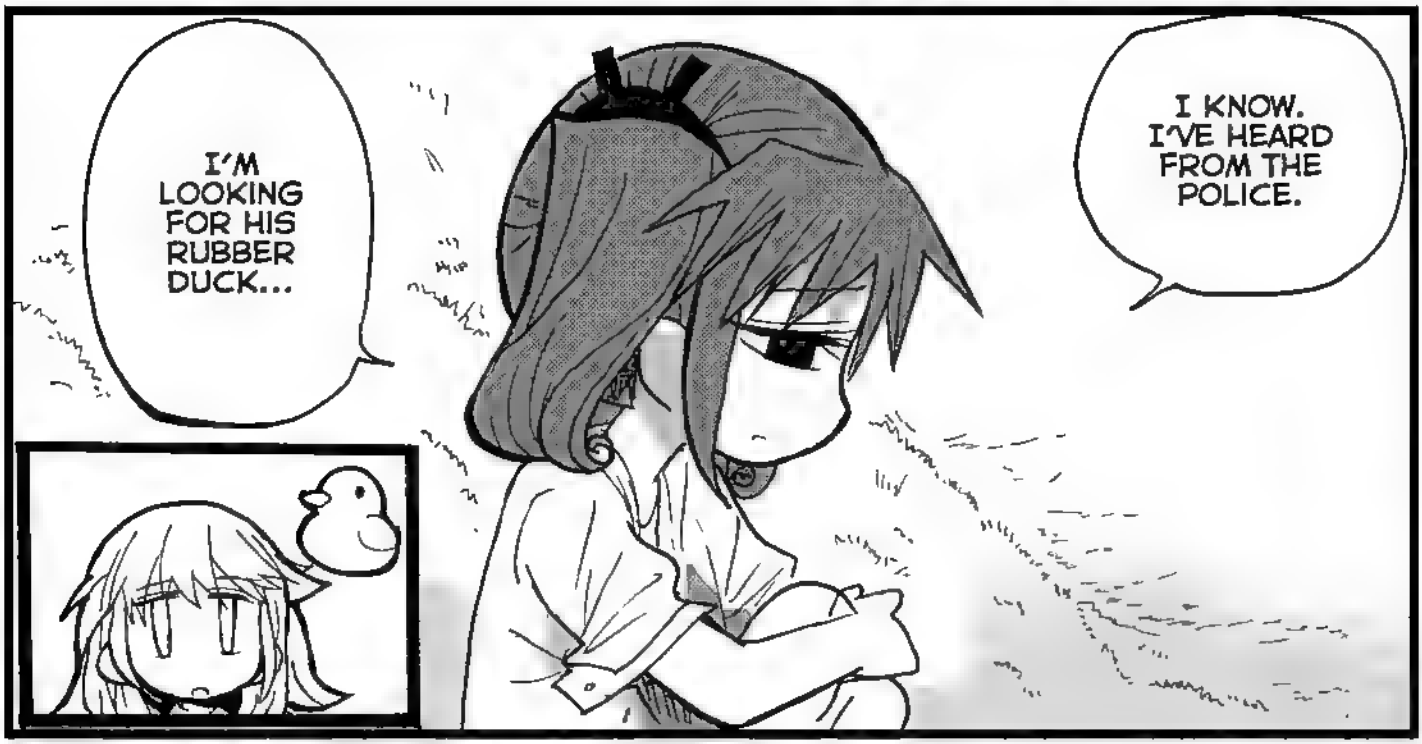
I'LL FILL YOU IN LATER.

SHE ISN'T HOME YET...
THAT'S ODD.
OH MY. SHE DIDN'T TELL HER PARENTS...
SHE LOOKED LIKE SHE HAD SOMETHING ON HER MIND TOO. I'M WORRIED.
I SEE...
SHE DID SAY SHE'D BE AT THE RIVER, THOUGH.

BUT WELL... SHE'S HONEST.
I HOPE SHE ACTUALLY IS THERE.
SHE DOESN'T LIE...

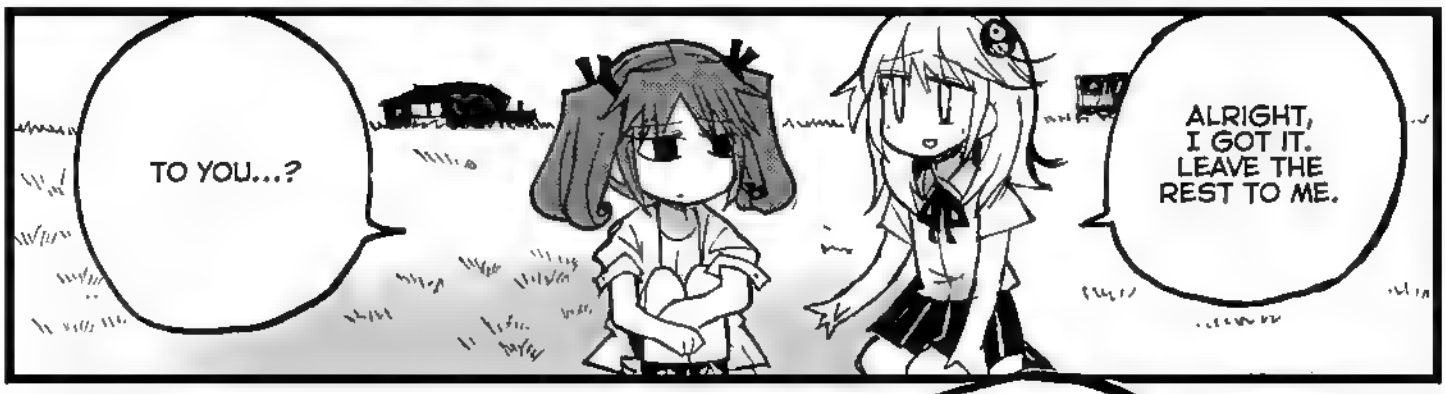
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, SKIPPING SCHOOL?
HEYA!

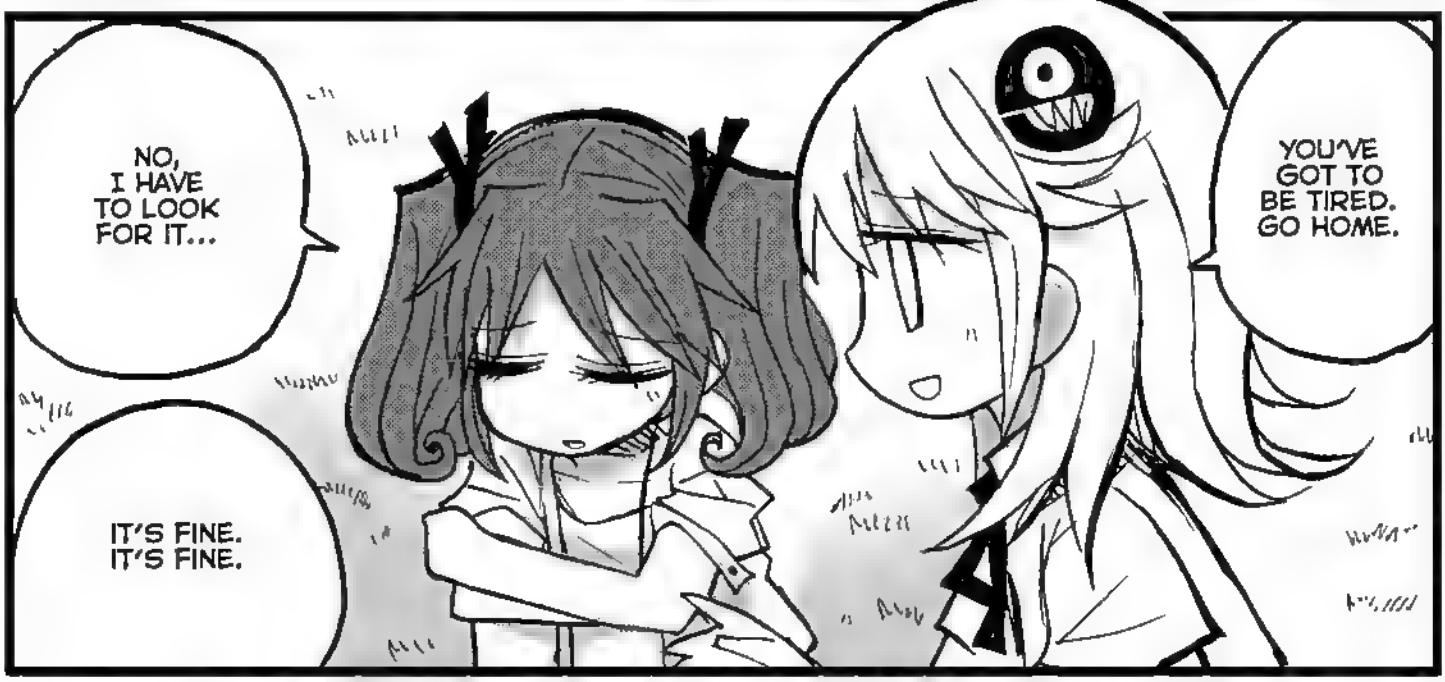
THEY'VE FOUND SUWA-KUN. YOU CAN REST NOW.


I'M LOOKING FOR HIS RUBBER DUCK...
I KNOW. I'VE HEARD FROM THE POLICE.

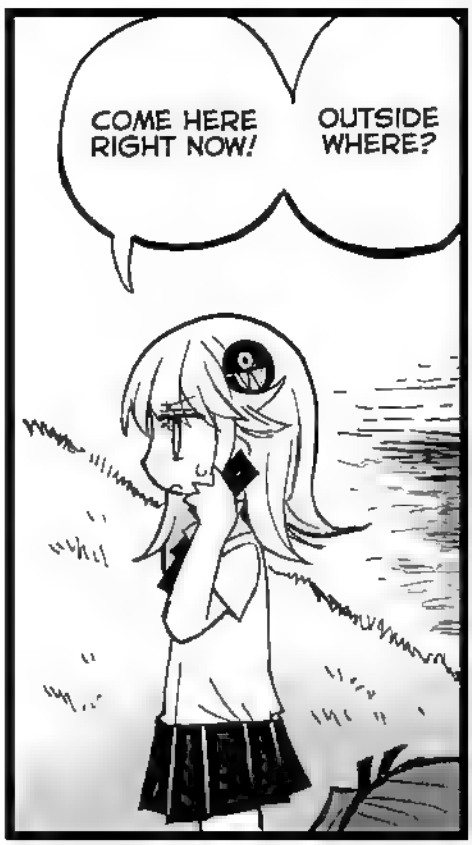
OH NO... THE RUBBER DUCK.
IF I DON'T FIND IT,
HE'D STILL BE LOST.

THEY'D LOOK FOR A BODY, BUT NO ONE WOULD BOTHER DOING THE SAME FOR A RUBBER DUCK...


TO YOU...?
ALRIGHT, I GOT IT. LEAVE THE REST TO ME.

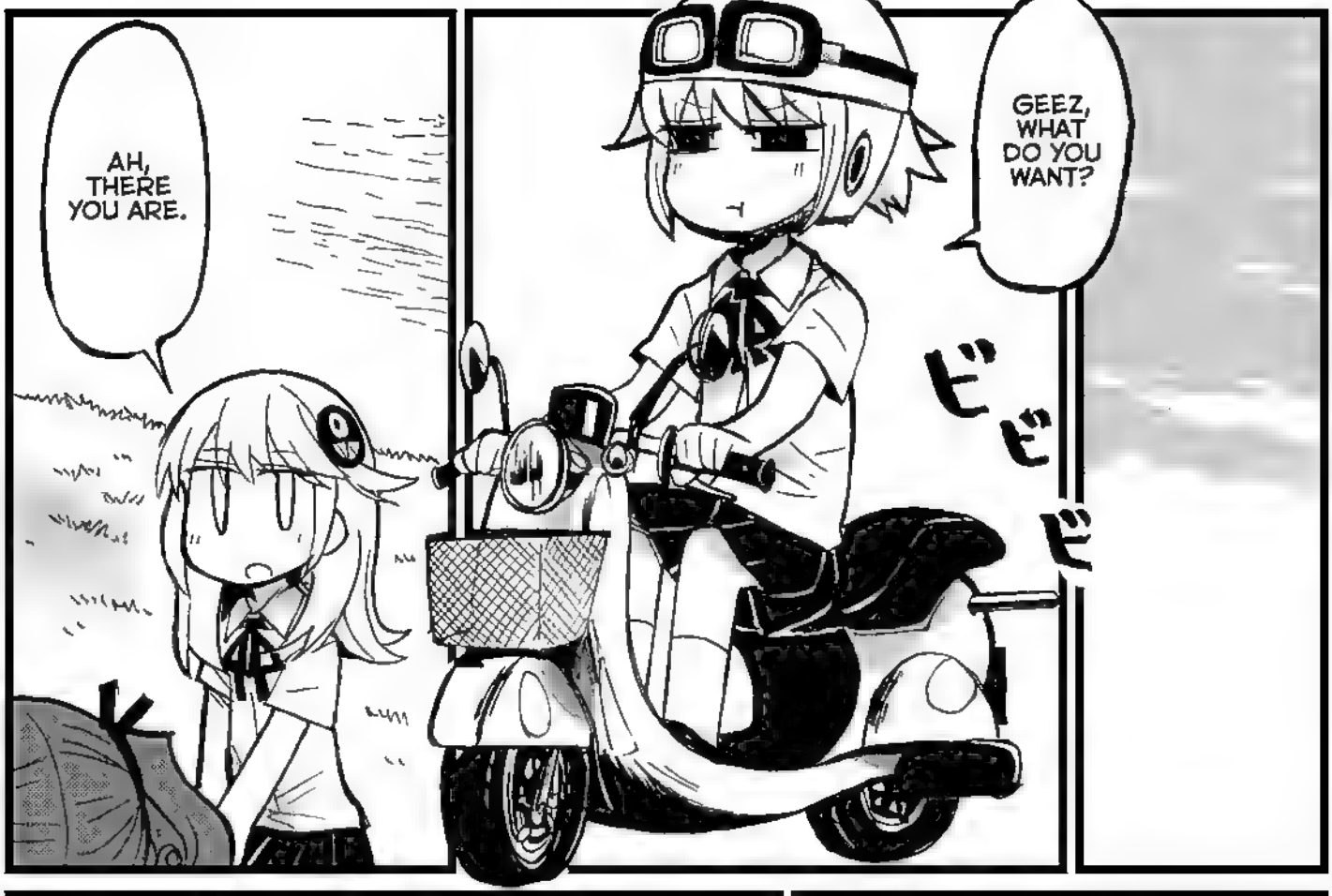

NO, I HAVE TO LOOK FOR IT...
YOU'VE GOT TO BE TIRED. GO HOME.
IT'S FINE. IT'S FINE.

AH.
SENPAI, WHERE ARE YOU?

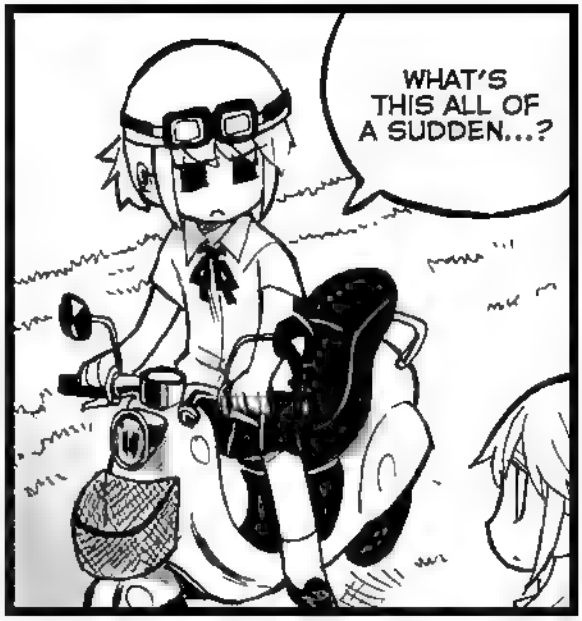

COME HERE RIGHT NOW!
OUTSIDE WHERE?

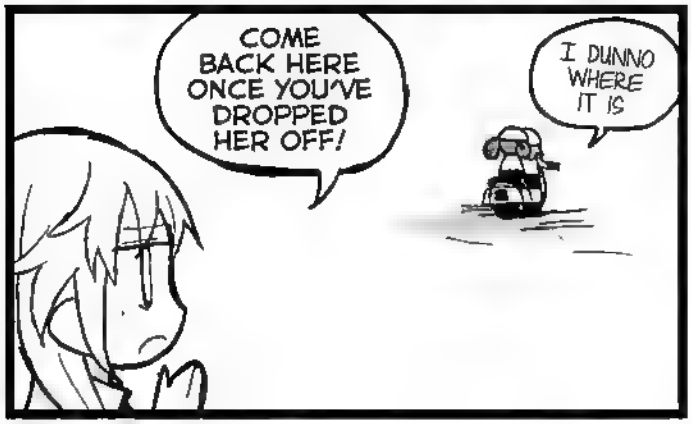
YOU HAVE YOUR MOTOR-CYCLE WITH YOU?
YOU'RE NEARBY, THEN.
THE AR-CADE.
YEAH.

ウィーン ウィーン
RIGHT NOW?
フキダシ
OUT-SIDE!
アンター!


AH, THERE YOU ARE.
GEEZ, WHAT DO YOU WANT?
ビビビ

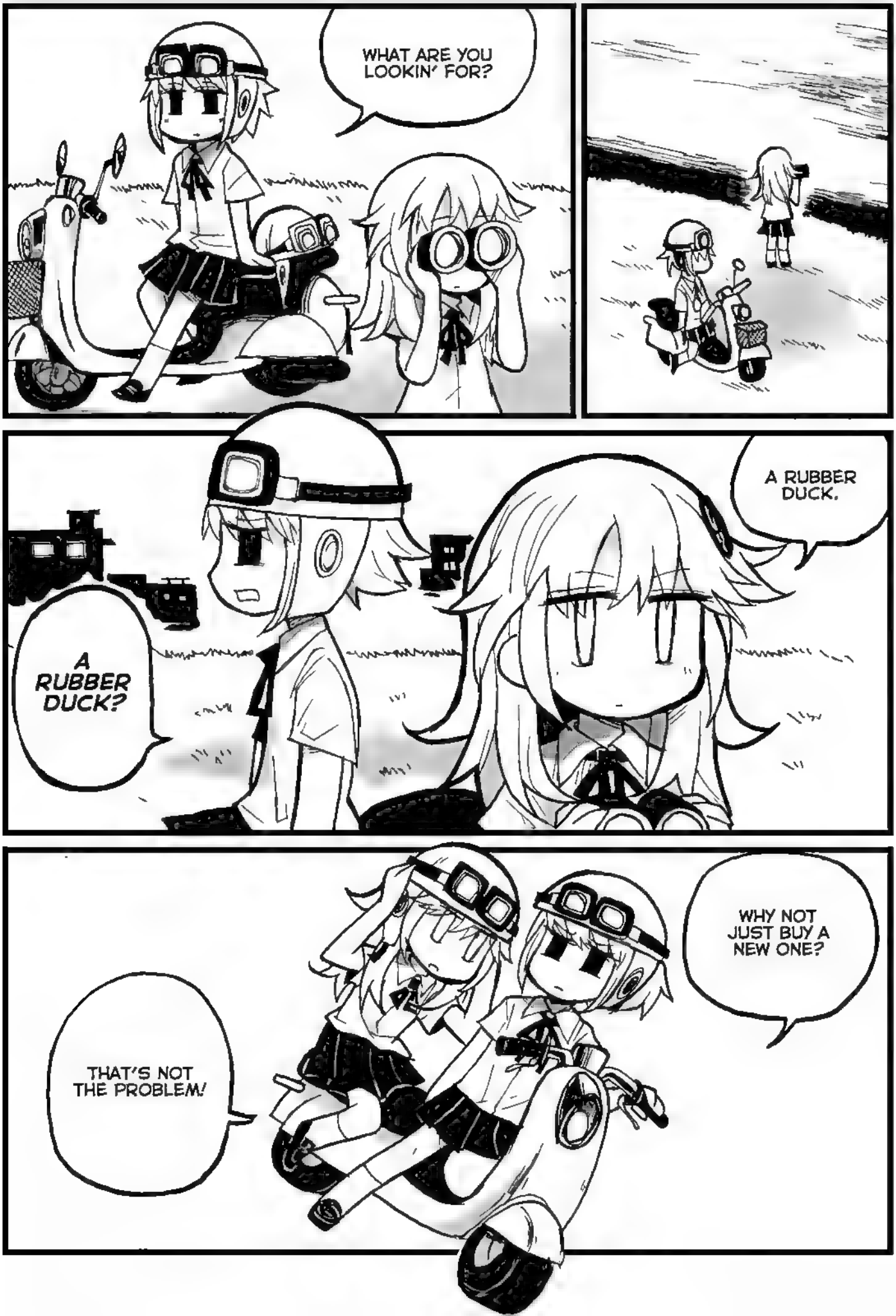
WHY?
DRIVE HER HOME.


WHAT'S THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN...?

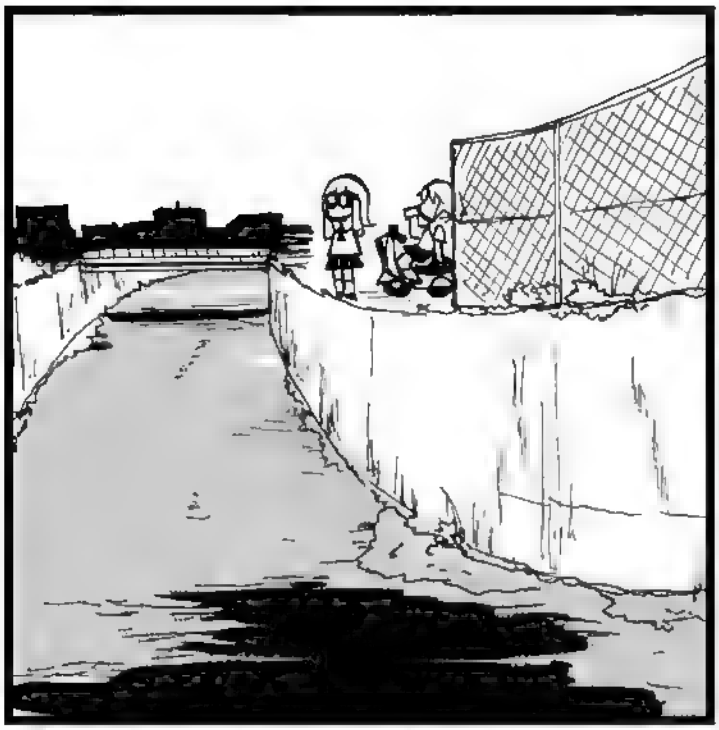

COME BACK HERE ONCE YOU'VE DROPPED HER OFF!
I DUNNO WHERE IT IS

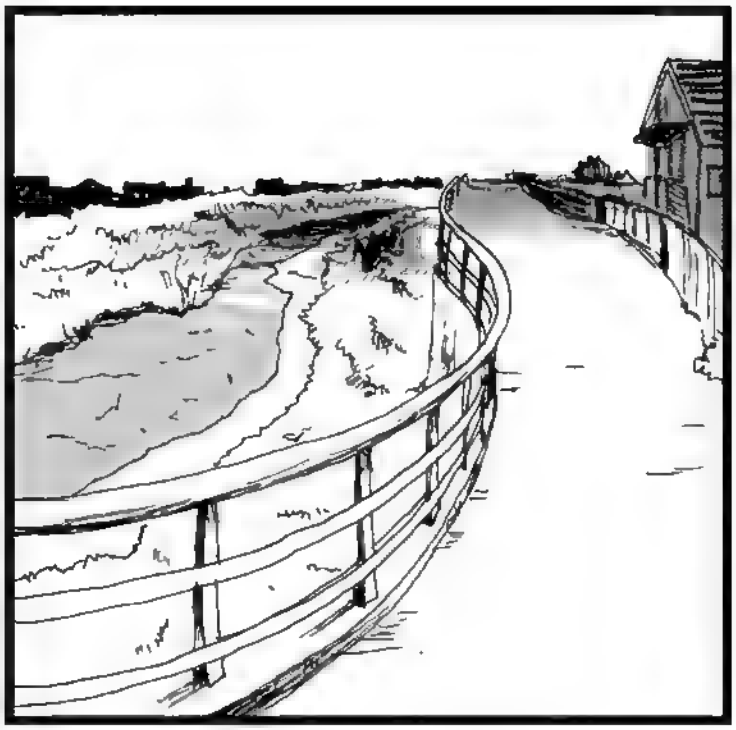
TOHO-HO...
JUST DO IT!

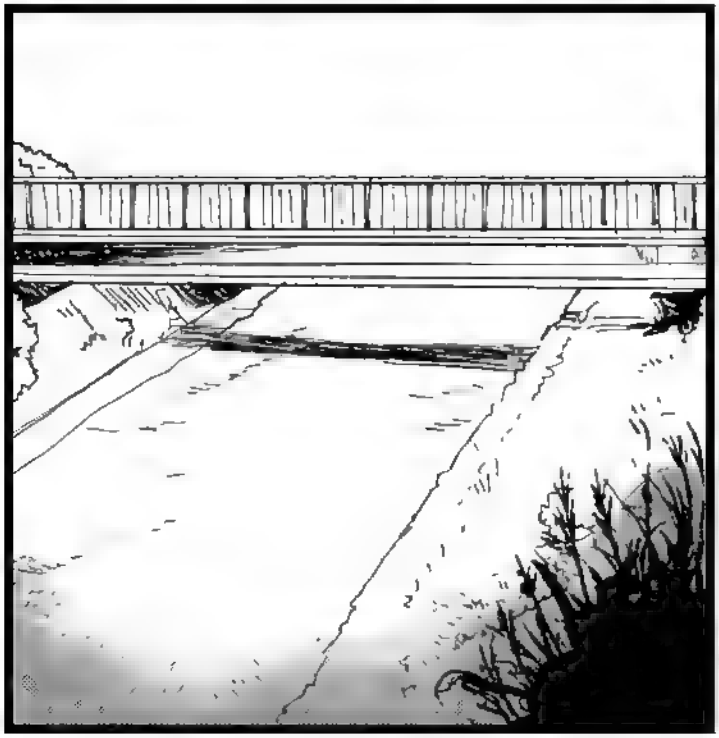
THE RUBBER DUCK, HUH...? THIS IS GONNA BE HARD.
YEAH, YEAH.
DRIVE ME ALONGSIDE THE RIVER.
GEEZ, WHAT DO YOU WANT?
ビビビ


WHAT ARE YOU LOOKIN' FOR?
A RUBBER DUCK.
A RUBBER DUCK?
WHY NOT JUST BUY A NEW ONE?
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM!

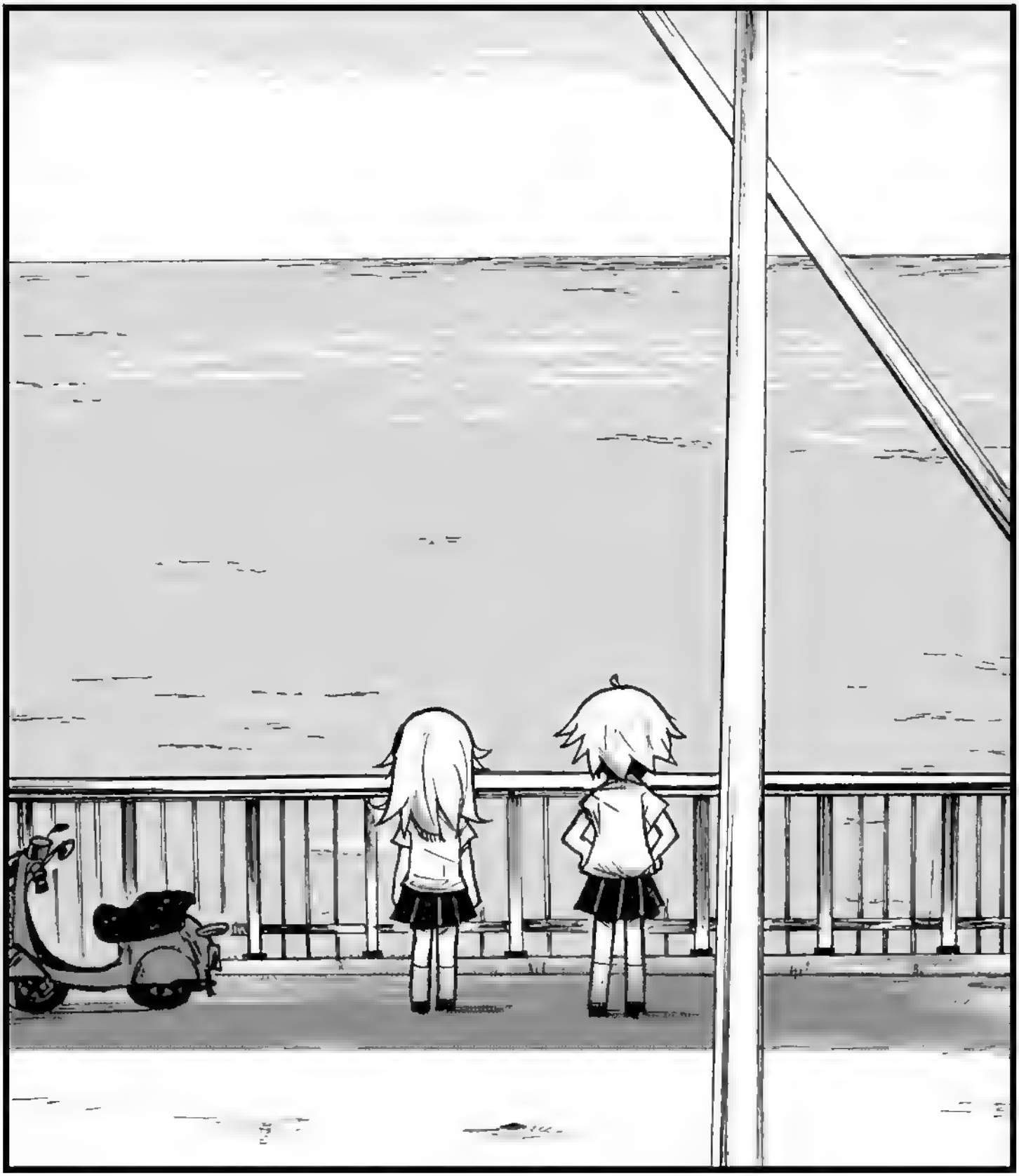
HOW FAR ARE WE GOING?
JUST FOLLOW THE RIVER FOR NOW.
I'LL LOOK FOR IT...
THERE'S NO ROAD...
HEY, HEY! WE'RE GETTING AWAY FROM THE RIVER!







THERE AIN'T NO WAY YOU'RE GONNA FIND IT, YOU KNOW



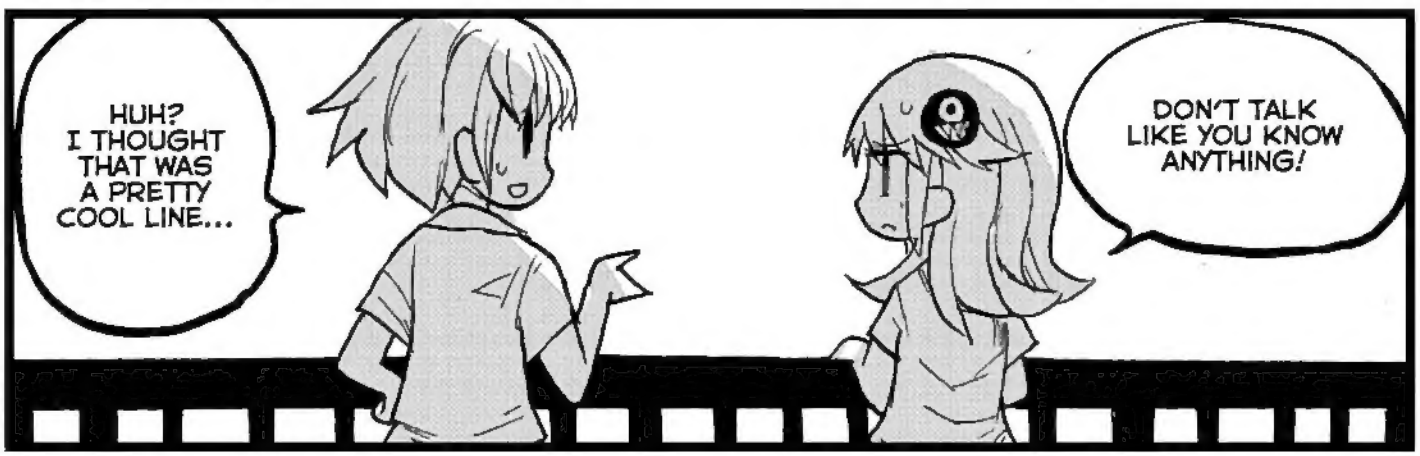
THERE'S NO WAY. YOU'RE ASKING FOR A MIRACLE HERE.

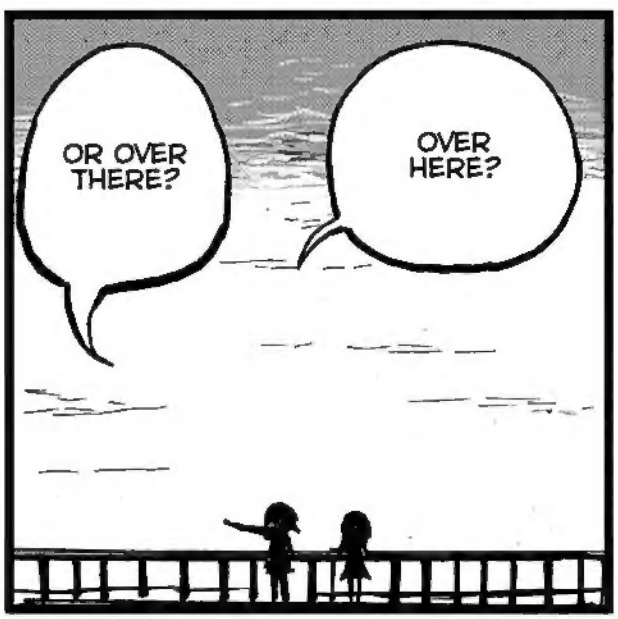
IT RAINED YESTER-DAY TOO, SO THE WATER WAS HIGHER.
YEAH...
GUESS THAT WOULDN'T HELP, HUH...?
WANNA TRY FLOATING THE SAME KIND OF RUBBER DUCK DOWN THE RIVER?

THE RIVER'S WIDE TOO. IT SPLITS TOO.
...
IF WE'RE GONNA FLOAT A NEW ONE DOWN THE RIVER, WE MIGHT AS WELL JUST GIVE IT TO THE GUY INSTEAD...

YOU SEE, YUKINA-CHAN...
SOMETIMES, YOU JUST GOTTA KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP.

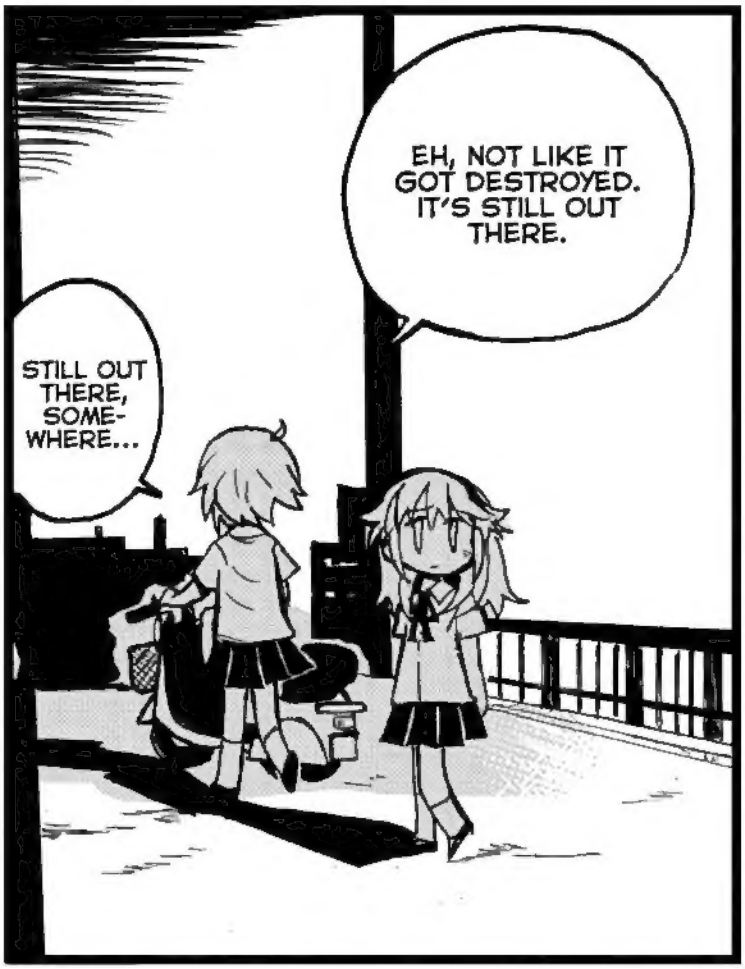
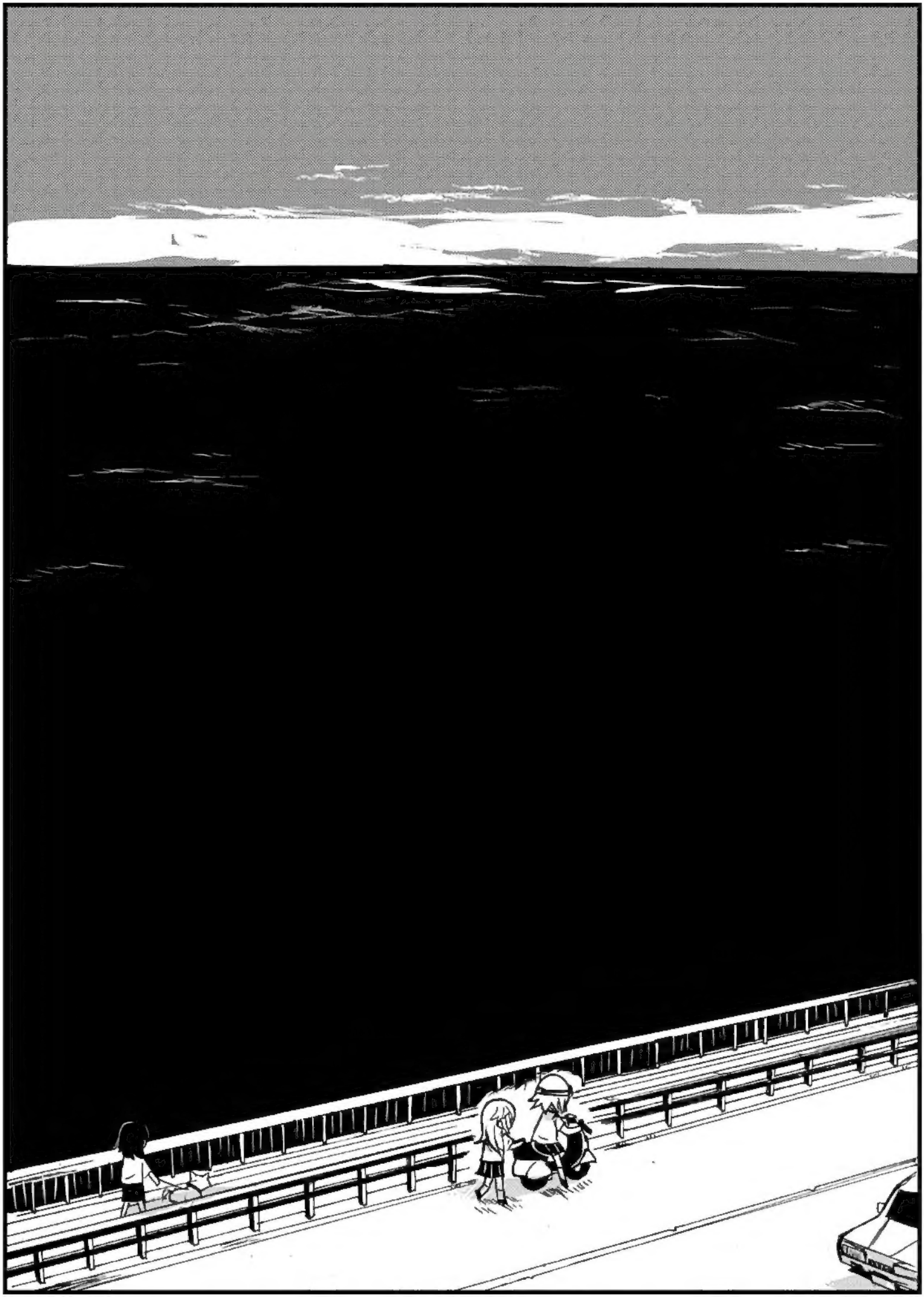
IF WE COULD FIND IT,
EVERYTHING WOULD BE BACK TO THE WAY IT WAS BEFORE...


HUH? I THOUGHT THAT WAS A PRETTY COOL LINE...
DON'T TALK LIKE YOU KNOW ANYTHING!


OR OVER THERE?
OVER HERE?

YOU KNOW, THOUGH...
YOU SAY THAT, BUT WHERE ARE WE GONNA FIND IT?

FOR SUWA-KUN.
I WANTED TO FIND IT FOR THEM...
I HATE TO ADMIT THIS, BUT YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT.
FOR MORISHITA-CHAN TOO...


EH, NOT LIKE IT GOT DESTROYED. IT'S STILL OUT THERE.
STILL OUT THERE, SOME-WHERE...